

A voluntarily agreed-upon sides-agreeing-to, this being part of the term reference. If persuasion Acas has powers to set its own inquiry, but its findings would not be binding.

There will be no t today because of Asle's two-day strike, and none Sunday.

BR blamed, p

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bard series gets a new producer

The BBC yesterday gave a report on what nathan Miller, one of the participants, described as its "ardation", the production of a 6½-year period of all 37 Shakespeare plays (written by Goshing writes). In the past two years, Miller has produced eight of the plays and directed three. He has now handed over series producer to Shaun Sutton, former head of drama for BBC Television. The transfer has been effected during production of a three-part series of *Henry VI*, which will be directed by Richard III, to be screened as a four-part, 14-hour serial. Mr Sutton's next production will be *King Lear*, directed by Jonathan Miller. Other productions this year include *Macbeth*, directed by Jack Gold, and *Antony and Cleopatra*, directed by Elijah. The series will be produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and BBC producer, directs *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Pericles* next year. The entire project is due for completion by the spring 1985.

Drugged driver gets licence

Staff Sergeant Raymond Smith, of the Royal Marines, whose car was in collision with another car and a ravan on the M5 motorway ten days given him after a trial, is given an absolute discharge yesterday. Smith, 38, of the 4th Command Logistic Regiment, based at Stonehouse, Plymouth, admitted driving while unfit through drugs, and was given a 12-month licence. He was fined £100 and given a 12-month licence. He was given a 12-month licence. He was given a 12-month licence.

Fear of violence alters marches

The Home Secretary yesterday announced a ban on 10 marches in Coventry this weekend because of fears of violence between Sinn Féin and the National Front. Sir Philip Knights, the /est Midlands Chief Constable, told the city's public order committee that if the Sinn Féin march planned for Sunday was to have been held in isolation he would have allowed it, but he feared serious public disorder after receiving applications by the National Front and the New National Front to hold counter-marches.

Norwich homes decision delayed

Norwich City Council must wait for a decision on its renewed attempt to stop a Whitehall takeover of the sale of its council homes. The Court of Appeal in London yesterday reserved judgment on the Labour-controlled council's appeal against the decision of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to assume control of the sale of council houses in the city. He stepped in after accusing the council of dragging its feet over house sales. A decision is expected within the next two weeks.

Housing aid for gay couples

Oxford City Council has decided to give homosexuals aged over 35 who live together the same status as people living together as married couples without children. There are more than 3,000 families waiting for houses in Oxford and the council's controlling Labour group was worried because single people living together were finding it impossible to get a house. Conservatives on the council argued that the move was immoral.

Death case man on theft charge

David Hampshire, who is wanted for questioning in connection with the death of Miss Julie Deakin, appeared in court at Dunsmuir, co Cork, yesterday charged with theft. He was remanded in custody to appear at Cudokilly court on Tuesday, when Buckinghamshire Police are expected to apply for his extradition. Miss Deakin, aged 18, was found dead in the bedroom of her home at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

Flood relief

Cheques ranging in value from £8,000 to £37 were distributed by the National Farmers' Union in Somerset yesterday to 45 farmers whose farms were flooded when the Bristol Channel burst through sea defences last month. The money is intended to help cover the cost of uninsured losses.

Human embryo banks proposed

By Annabel Ferriman  
Health Services Correspondent

Human embryo banks for infertile couples are being planned by Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe, the test-tube baby pioneers. The banks will contain frozen fertilized eggs for use either by the mothers from whom the eggs have been extracted or for women who cannot conceive in the usual way. Women attending the Steptoe and Edwards clinic at Bourn Hall, Cambridgeshire, often have more than one egg taken from them for fertilization by their husband's sperm. Two of the fertilized eggs are usually reimplanted three days later, but if freezing techniques prove successful, any surplus eggs could be stored for later use. New fertility drugs could also make it possible for women to produce as many as seven or eight eggs each month, so a large number could be stored. The disclosure, in a Television South (TVS) documentary to be screened on Tuesday, is bound to fuel the controversy over test-tube baby experiments. Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, has called for a moratorium on test-tube baby work until its ethics have been more widely discussed. He thinks that "in vitro" fertilization may increase the risk of congenital abnormalities, and that simply being infertile does not justify the risk, since "no-one dies of infertility." His committee is going to debate the subject on February 10. The programme, *The Test Tube Explosion*, shows that 28 test-tube babies have been born, 13 in Britain, 14 in Australia and one in the United States. The Bourn Hall clinic claims 100 pregnancies, including three sets of twins. It focuses on Natalie Curtis, Britain's fifth test-tube baby, who was born on September 23, 1981, to David and Maria Curtis, from Kent. Her birth came after treatment at the Bourn clinic a year ago.



Mrs Curtis holding Natalie, Britain's fifth test-tube baby.

Dr Edwards, speaking on the programme, says that he would like to establish embryo banks once he is satisfied that freezing techniques would not affect the embryos adversely. He admits his fears are largely theoretical, because animal embryos have been successfully frozen for years. But he says that during freezing and thawing a chromosomal imbalance might occur. The frozen embryos could be kept for many years. Dr Edwards thinks it would also be useful to be able to divide human embryos, just as animal embryos have been divided to produce clones. It would mean that one half could be tested for chromosomal abnormalities, such as haemophilia and muscular dystrophy. Mr Steptoe defends the right of infertile couples to seek help through "in vitro" fertilization.

Recording of X-rays is opposed

By Our European Political Correspondent

All radiological examinations from tooth X-rays to lung cancer tests, will have to be entered on a personal record card by doctors and dentists if a European draft directive is adopted. But from evidence offered by the Department of Health and Social Security and professional associations, the British Government seems certain to veto the idea. Lord Seebom, chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Community, envisaged the circumstances in which he went to the dentist and needed an X-ray, but before it could be carried out the record would have to be consulted to see whether he was likely to be exposed to more than the safe limit of radiation. Lord Chitnis, the Liberal peer, said that in West Germany everyone had to carry record cards on vaccinations and immunization injections, so why should not card showing exposure to radiation be carried. Dr Ronald Oliver, senior principal medical officer at the DHSS said: "That causes us concern, both from the point of view of cost and also the impact it might have on the confidentiality of patients' records." He said that even if there were radiological record cards, a doctor might not accept information obtained from another doctor. The draft directive calls on member states to set up a system so that X-ray records are available without complex formalities to other doctors or dentists. It is important to eliminate unnecessary radiation exposures and to avoid examinations where the need is not established or repetition is fruitless. Dr Oliver said the risks from routine X-ray examinations were extraordinarily small. The chance that a chest X-ray might induce cancer was one in a thousand million.

EEC 'not to blame for fishery troubles'

By George Clark

Critics of the Government who claim that ministerial directions and orders from the EEC Commission in Brussels have caused a drastic depletion in the United Kingdom deep sea fishing fleet got a blunt answer yesterday from Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries, when he addressed the Commons standing committee on Statutory Instruments. He acknowledged that the freezer section of the fleet faced difficulties, and referred to the sale of the famous trawlers, Arctic Gal and Arctic Buccaneer, of Hull, to New Zealand fishing companies. But he added: "This has nothing to do with the Common Market. That is why I find totally mischievous some of the criticisms made in recent weeks. I am not making a political point." The major problems for the deep sea fleet have been the extension of fishing limits by countries like Iceland, Norway and Canada to 200 miles. The British Government had gone out of its way to help the freezer section by varying quotas so that it could switch between herring and mackerel fishing. Mr Buchanan-Smith said. He rejected the attack on the Government made in a letter to *The Times* yesterday by Mr Neil Parkes, chairman of Boston Deep Sea Fishing, who, he said, claimed that the ministry was dragging its feet in the EEC negotiations. "If he wants a solution which is unsatisfactory in meeting our problems, we can get it tomorrow," Mr Buchanan-Smith said. "It is just because ministers are prepared to stand by our fishing industry, that these negotiations have been so prolonged." "We will not accept a settlement just for the sake of a settlement." He told the committee, which was examining a Statutory Instrument to continue the scheme offering 25 per cent grants for new fishing vessels and equipment that in 1979-80 £7m had been provided under the scheme.

Worry over Welsh water

By David Hewson

Water from reservoirs in Wales costs the Welsh more than it does the English, the Commons Select Committee on Welsh Affairs was told yesterday. The average water bill last year in Wales was £66, while in the neighbouring Severn district households paid on average £57 for water, a large part of which came from Welsh sources, the Welsh Consumer Council told the committee. Mr Philip Woods, the council's research officer, said it was in favour of a surcharge on Welsh water supplied to households in the Severn area, Cheshire and Lancashire. He cited a number of letters to the council. One Welshman wrote: "My water rate this year is £112.65. I have relations in Prescon, Lancashire, one in particular has a large house, much bigger than mine." "His water rate is in the region of £50 and his supply, I believe, is obtained from Lake Vyrnwy (on the Montgomery-Shropshire border)." Mr Woods said the council accepted that the Welsh Water Authority's water system was more expensive to run than some of its British counterparts. In the short term the council wanted a surcharge on supplies of Welsh water to England, but believed that the public's interests would be best served by charging for water through income tax and the formation of a water consumers' council for the whole of Wales.

Plays were too alike, court told

William Douglas-Home, the playwright, in his play, *The Kingfisher*, used material based on scripts adapted by Mr Basil Ashmore, the stage director, from the work of three playwrights, it was alleged in the High Court yesterday. Mr Anthony Hoolanan, QC, told Judge Mervyn Davies that in 1967 Mr Ashmore sent Mr Douglas-Home three adapted scripts. Westminister will automatically repay the 9,000 ratepayers who occupy single properties and have overpaid, but those who occupy more than one site will have to ask for the cash. Both groups will receive interest calculated at an annual rate of 13 per cent. Manchester's rates will rise by between 12 and 15 per cent this year at the cost of severe cuts in services and 2,000 compulsory redundancies (a Manchester correspondent writes). Mr Morrison Morris, labour leader of the council, said last night that the city faced a deficit and the alternative to cuts and redundancies was a much bigger rate increase. "It is appalling. People will suffer the results of what the government has done in setting these cash limits," Mr Morrison said. "On the other hand, if we piled it on the rates there would be appalling consequences for trade and industry. There would probably be large-scale redundancies in the private sector."

William Douglas-Home: Counter claim.

with a view to the playwright's contributing an epilogue for a play entitled *The Cuckoo's Progress*. The two men could not agree on a satisfactory ending for the work and the epilogue remained unwritten. Ten years later, counsel said, Mr Ashmore read a review of *The Kingfisher*, which opened at the Lyric Theatre on May 4, 1977, starring Sir Ralph Richardson. When he read that review he said to himself: "My goodness me, that is *The Cuckoo's Progress*," counsel said. Mr Hoolanan was opening an action by Mr Ashmore, of Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, for order preventing Mr Douglas-Home, the Lyric Theatre Company, Mr Thomas Henry John Gate, the producer, and Lissen Productions, of Piccadilly, London, from infringing his copyright. He also sought damages alleging wrongful use of confidential information. All the defendants denied breach of copyright and Mr Douglas-Home also counter-claimed for damages, alleging libel in a letter written by Mr Ashmore in 1977 to Mr David Grant, then manager of the Lyric Theatre. Mr Ashmore denied libel and pleaded justification. Mr Ashmore had compiled *The Cuckoo's Progress* from single-act plays. The first, *The Constant Lover*, by John Rankin, was a Victorian romance about a young couple who met under a beech tree. In the final scene the lovers were to meet again under the tree. Mr Douglas-Home wanted a happy ending. Mr Ashmore did not. The relationship between the two men ended in 1967. Ten years later Mr Ashmore recognised his own material, and particularly the theme of the lovers and the beech tree, in *The Kingfisher*. The case continues today.

LT fares to double despite vote muddle

By Michael Bailly  
Transport Correspondent

Bus and Tube fares in London will double on March 21, despite an equivocal vote by the Greater London Council. The Labour-dominated council voted on Monday against London Transport's specific proposals for fare rises, which were approved in principle fortnight ago. In a series of confused votes Conservatives joined Left-wingers in opposing some proposals so London Transport's power to implement them could technically be inhibited. Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Labour leader, described the debate as meaningless and said the earlier decision still stood. Sir Peter Masefield, chairman of London Transport, said he would be pressing ahead with the measures. "London Transport will go quietly ahead with preparations for 100 per cent increases based on the revised budget which was approved in principle by the council on January 12," he said yesterday. The rises will mean a 20p minimum fare on the buses and 40p on the Underground. They are expected to result in a 20 per cent loss of traffic, compared with a 12 per cent gain as a result of the Fares Fair policy, but will increase revenue by 55 per cent. London boroughs are making different arrangements to repay the GLC supplementary rate, despite efforts to achieve a uniform settlement (David Walker writes). Westminster City Council has placed advertisements in tomorrow's local newspapers telling some of its ratepayers to expect a cash refund, but in neighbouring Kensington and Chelsea refunds will not be paid automatically. Ratepayers who paid the supplementary rate will be asked to agree to have it credited to next year's account. Both Westminster and Kensington have decided to collect the part of the supplementary rate which was to pay for the Inner London Education Authority's 4.7p precept. Westminster will automatically repay the 9,000 ratepayers who occupy single properties and have overpaid, but those who occupy more than one site will have to ask for the cash. Both groups will receive interest calculated at an annual rate of 13 per cent. Manchester's rates will rise by between 12 and 15 per cent this year at the cost of severe cuts in services and 2,000 compulsory redundancies (a Manchester correspondent writes). Mr Morrison Morris, labour leader of the council, said last night that the city faced a deficit and the alternative to cuts and redundancies was a much bigger rate increase. "It is appalling. People will suffer the results of what the government has done in setting these cash limits," Mr Morrison said. "On the other hand, if we piled it on the rates there would be appalling consequences for trade and industry. There would probably be large-scale redundancies in the private sector."

Career girls 'steered into low-paid jobs'

By Our Education Correspondent

Intelligent and ambitious girls are discouraged from following careers in engineering and other traditionally male jobs by teachers, careers officers and employers, who steer them instead into jobs as clerical workers, shop assistants and into other work with low pay and poor prospects, according to research findings published yesterday. The research, which was funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission and carried out by Dr Yves Benet and Dawn Carter, of Huddersfield Polytechnic, was based on interviews with more than forty girls from one unnamed locality, who had good academic achievements but left school at 16. Dianne had six O levels (grade C, or above), including mathematics, physics and chemistry, and three CSE passes. When she told her teachers she wanted to go into engineering they laughed and gave her no advice on how to go about it, she says. Nevertheless, she took a selection test for an engineering apprenticeship with a local firm, passed it and was interviewed. The personnel officer "asked how I could cope if I rose to the top of the firm... He made it clear he did not think that I would get the job and did not want me to get it... He said: 'We have never had a girl here yet.' The atmosphere was very tense. He asked how I would feel working with men; he went on about this."

Art dealers to lobby on premium

By Frances Gibb  
The Office of Fair Trading said yesterday that it had not received the body of evidence on the buyers' premium promised by the Society of London Art Dealers. The decision to hand over the evidence was announced to members of the society in a confidential newsletter dated January 11, sent by Mr John Baskett, chairman of the society. The evidence, originally amassed by the dealers to fight Christie's and Sotheby's in the High Court, is needed by the office for an inquiry into whether the auction houses breached restrictive practices legislation when they introduced the premium in 1975. Yesterday some Mayfair dealers expressed concern that the evidence had not been delivered. "On the BBC *Newsnight* programme last Friday, the society said it was likely to be handing over the evidence within 48 hours", one said. In the meantime, however, the society has launched a lobby of Parliament for the abolition of the premium. A letter has been sent to all members enclosing copies of a leading article of the buyer's premium published in *The Times* on January 16. Last October the dealers settled with the auction houses on the eve of a High Court hearing on condition that the auction houses reviewed the premium. The result of the review was that Sotheby's decided the premium should stay at 10 per cent and Christie's agreed to cut it from 10 to 8 per cent.

Midlands plea on TV picture

From Arthur Osman  
Birmingham

The East Midlands forum of county councils, which was instrumental in winning a separate television service for the region from the Independent Broadcasting Authority, said yesterday that it would probably approach Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, about reception difficulties for viewers. After talks with IBA representatives a spokesman for the forum said: "We found what they had to tell us was disappointing, because very little progress has been made in the 14 months since our last meeting with them." "We do not understand why a body like the IBA, having taken the decision to bring us a service at last, should be so sluggish in providing the necessary hardware." The start of the separate service has been delayed by an electricians' dispute at Independent Television's Central studio near Nottingham. A condition of the franchise awarded to Central, was that it must become a dual region. Most sets are tuned to the Sutton Coldfield transmitter, near Birmingham. But the new service will be broadcast by the Waltham transmitter, in Leicestershire, with small relay stations in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire being switched to Waltham. The IBA has said it had difficulty in switching four others for technical reasons, and conceded that it had done little work on the matter.

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## Police guilty of misconduct 'left unpunished'

By Lucy Hodges

The Police Complaints Board is misinterpreting the law so that police officers who are guilty of misconduct are escaping disciplinary action, a Queen's Counsel told a committee of MPs yesterday.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, who was appearing before the Home Affairs Select Committee as legal adviser to the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL), said that the law did not lay down that officers against whom criminal charges had been dropped should not then face disciplinary proceedings.

That was how the Police Complaints Board interpreted the law, with the result that policemen against whom serious charges were brought initially, faced no punishment whatsoever, the NCCCL told the committee. That is known as the "double jeopardy" rule.

A recent case in which that happened concerned Mr Errol Madden, a young black, who was charged with the theft of two model cars which he had bought for £1,000. The charges were dismissed and a complaint was lodged against two police officers.

Mr Madden's case was that he had been intimidated into signing a false confession. The Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to bring criminal proceedings against the officers on the ground of insufficient evidence.

Sir Cyril Philips, chairman of the Police Complaints Board, told the NCCCL, in a letter that because of the Home Secretary's guidance on police complaints the board was precluded from recommending disciplinary charges on the same evidence.

Sir Cyril added: "The police investigation has nevertheless revealed that Mr Madden was subjected to some distinctly unprofessional behaviour on the part of the police while he was in custody."

The documents in this case were the NCCCL's evidence to the committee. Mr Beloff added that the Home Secretary's guidance, on which the complaints board based its interpretation of the double jeopardy rule, was either being misinterpreted by the board or was itself unlawful and ultra vires.

Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the NCCCL, told the committee that although the two officers in the Madden case had escaped punishment, the station sergeant, who was much less involved, had been disciplined. That was because the latter had not faced criminal charges at any stage.

A Nottinghamshire police spokesman said yesterday: "We cannot comment until after the programme has been screened."

## TV to show innocent man being manhandled

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

Scenes of a man being dragged from his home by two detectives will be seen by thousands of Midlands viewers when the new Central Independent Television channel begins a series on the Nottinghamshire police force tonight.

In a preview of the first episode a Nottingham man suspected of stealing a set of golf clubs was seen talking to two police officers on his doorstep. Seconds later he is grabbed and manhandled down the garden path in full view of hysterical members of his family. Later the man is cleared.

Mr Charles McLachlan, Nottinghamshire's Chief Constable, has already watched the six-part series and has agreed to it being screened without cuts.

The first episode is called "The Detective's Life" and follows the work of two CID men based at Bulwell station, Nottingham. One of the officers, Det Constable David Waite, disclosed that police carry firearms much more often than the public realize.

At one stage he said: "I am very suspicious of anyone. I will never accept a person is innocent until I have actually got to know them. The police force does harden you against people."

A Nottinghamshire police spokesman said yesterday: "We cannot comment until after the programme has been screened."



Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, presenting a trophy to the winners of BBC Radio 4's "Top of the Form" yesterday. They are (back row, from left) Kenneth Brown, Murray Pratt, (front) Kirsteen Browning and Marie Walker, from the Girvan Academy, Ayrshire.

## Youth killed himself after girl's death

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

A young student killed himself after reading a newspaper report of the death of a former girl friend, an inquest at Liverpool was told yesterday.

Mr Stephen Murphy, aged 20, who was found dead in bed at his flat, had taken a lethal mixture of drugs and alcohol.

Police officers who found his body said a newspaper containing a report of the death of Miss Catherine Lynch, aged 21, who fell from a tower block two years after a gang-raped, was found between the bedclothes.

The inquest was told that after that inquest opened last October Mr Murphy, of Marmian Street, Liverpool, had told a friend, Mr Colin Sefton, that he had gone out with Miss Lynch. He had told his brother-in-law, Mr Frederick Mallet, the same thing, throwing a copy of the newspaper at him and saying he was going home.

Four days later, a girl friend called at Mr Murphy's flat but could not get an answer. The police were called and the body was discovered.

Recording a verdict that he killed himself, Mr Roy Barter, the coroner, said it would be wrong to attribute the action to any single event. A note found in the deceased's bedroom said he had killed himself "for the simple reason that he regarded himself as a failure."

## Press reports could not influence jury

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

The Scottish Court of Appeal in Edinburgh yesterday gave their reason for quashing convictions of contempt of court against two Scottish newspapers and their editors.

The *Scotsman* and the *Glasgow Herald* had been held by Lord Ross in the High Court to be in contempt of court after reporting that a Crown witness and his wife were taken by police to a secret address after giving evidence at the Glasgow High Court trial of 11 men accused of conspiring to further the aims of the Ulster Volunteer Force by illegal means.

Yesterday Lord Emslie, the Lord Justice General, sitting with Lord Stott and Lord Dunpark, said they had no hesitation in deciding that the passages in the two newspapers did not constitute contempt.

Lord Ross had felt there was a risk that jurors might be influenced in their consideration of the two witnesses' credibility.

Lord Emslie said that in the light of the nature of the charges, it was not surprising that police made massive security arrangements for all concerned. That was a matter of public knowledge.

The essence of contempt was the allegation that what was published contained insinuations or suggestions capable of prejudicing the minds of jurors.

In this case the court had no hesitation in deciding that the passages in the two newspapers did not contain insinuations or suggestions capable of prejudicing the minds of jurors.

There was always a possibility that someone might misconstrue what he read or indulge in his own speculation. But that possibility afforded no justification for holding that the publication was in contempt.

Lord Emslie added that it was the court's paramount duty to ensure that persons charged on indictment received a fair and impartial trial. The public dissemination of insinuations or suggestions capable of prejudicing the minds of jurors could not be tolerated.

## New group formed to back NHS

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

An organization to defend the National Health Service and oppose the expansion of private medicine is being launched next month by a group of academics, health service workers, trade unionists and community health council workers.

The group, to be called NHS Unlimited, came together last year when a plan to build a private hospital on a site owned by University College Hospital, London, was mooted. Its chairman, Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, led the fight against proposed hospital.

The aim of the group is to promote the interests of the health service, highlight its advantages and expose the shortcomings of private medical care. It has conducted a survey on the state of development in the private sector by circularizing all community health councils, the official health service watchdogs, asking for information.

Activists in the organization include Dr Paul Neenan, chairman of the National Health Service Consultants Association, Mr Peter Draper, director of the Unit for the Study of Health Policy at Guy's Hospital, London, and Mrs Marcia Saunders, chairman of the Islington Community Health Council.

They feel there is little control over the establishment of new small private hospitals. If the new hospital contains fewer than 120 beds the Department of Health and Social Security has to be notified about it, but no authorization is necessary. Mr Dobson said yesterday: "At the moment Dr Crippen or Sweeney Todd could apply to build a private hospital and get it. Nobody would investigate them."

The Conservative Medical Society has attacked the group for using community health councils, which are publicly funded, to provide information for what they see as a politically motivated group. Mrs Saunders denied the charge yesterday. "CHCs are concerned about the total health service provision and what happens in the private sector influences what happens in the public sector," she said. She said the establishment of many new hospitals attracted staff away from the NHS.

## Bournes' final fling

By Tony Samstag

Today is the opening of the sale of the century at Bournes of Oxford Street. The sale will continue until the final item is cleared from the shelves and the store, a central London landmark since 1902, closes.

The closure, the third by leading London department stores since last September, is the latest in the melancholy litany of retailing institutions that have had their day and gone, leaving large freeholds behind like dinosaurs' bones. Those bones, in particular, are likely to have a brighter future with the approval by the last Greater London Council last year of outline plans to turn the "Island" site into shops, offices and flats.

Mr Lawrence Kaffel, managing director of Bournes, refused yesterday to give details of the progress of those plans except to confirm that talks were continuing. Mr Kaffel said that he and his staff had made a good attempt to try to revive a "Hollingsworth returns".

## Computer aid for disabled

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

A device which enables a disabled person to create animated cartoons, design a house, or simply type a letter to a friend, has been developed at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, North London.

The equipment, which opens wide opportunities for handicapped people, takes almost no account of the degree of physical disability and is the latest exploitation of the ubiquitous microcomputer.

Preparation of an architectural blueprint, or the composition of a personal letter, are only two of hundreds of activities made possible by the invention by a group of biomedical engineers and computer programmers at the institute.

The apparatus has a clinical purpose for doctors measuring progress in treating disabilities, in addition to its use in hospital, day centres or at home.

There are three elements to the system: the method of controlling equipment to replace the traditional keyboard; a commercially available microcomputer which can use any of the programmes written for a virtually limitless number of applications; and a television set, printer or other machine for recording information.

In developing the equipment Mr Jack Perkins, an electronics specialist, and Miss Janet Baker, a computer programmer, have used either a simple, large, robust on-off button to control the device or a joystick. However, the choice of a control unit will differ because a severely handicapped person may, for example, be able only to move his head to operate the equipment. The whole apparatus costs about £2,000.

In a demonstration at Mill Hill Miss Baker showed how a doctor can measure the response to treatment of certain conditions by assessing tremor. The method is simple. The patient tries to keep a small object on a television screen, using the joystick, inside a circle.

With the typing programme, the top third of the screen carries the alphabet, which is being continuously scanned by a dot of light. Using a button or joystick, characters can be selected and printed out in a letter format.



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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## 180 die in two train accidents

At least 110 people were killed and 150 others injured yesterday when a train was derailed on the Buhulian pass, 65 miles west of Algiers. And 70 people died when a passenger express crashed into a goods train in thick fog on the outskirts of Agra in northern India.

About 450 passengers were on the train travelling from Algiers to Oran when the accident occurred.

President Chadi sent his condolences to the families of the crash victims and dispatched a high-ranking delegation, including the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the Interior, Health and Transportation to Buhulian.

In Agra, 20 people were seriously injured in the head-on collision and five of them are critical. The driver of the Delhi-bound express and his assistant were among those killed.

## Church will not marry cripple

New York—When Larry Bonvallet, paralysed by a fall, fell in love with a nurse while he was recuperating and they decided to marry, he was astounded to be told that the priest at his fiancée's church refused to perform the ceremony.

He appealed to the marriage tribunal of the Roman Catholic diocese of Joliet, Illinois, but has been told that if he is impotent a priest may not officiate.

The Rev James Nowak, Deputy Chief Justice of the tribunal, said: "We have a certain understanding of what marriage involves. If someone is not capable of that kind of relationship, he's not capable of marriage. All we are doing is expressing the law of nature."

## Surgery before birth

Brussels—Surgeons claiming a world first have operated on a baby boy two weeks before his birth at the Bavaria hospital in Liege.

Using ultrasonic material, they slit a drain into a cyst in the baby's kidney through the mother's abdominal wall. The embryo sac and the baby's skin, which allowed the urine to flow freely into the amniotic fluid and thus dry the growth. The baby was reported to be in excellent health.

## Thunderbolt plot foiled

President Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar, who has accused Roman Catholic priests of plotting with local sorcerers to make a thunderbolt fall on the presidential palace in Antananarivo and kill him.

He said a senior military officer, two priests and several others had been arrested in connexion with the conspiracy. Mercenaries from South Africa were also linked with the plot. "Several of the mercenaries who recently operated in the Seychelles had often been to Madagascar. They were certainly planning operations here," he said.

## Beverly Hills slavery raids

Los Angeles—Police here raided homes in Beverly Hills to crack what they alleged was a slave ring in which Indonesians were smuggled into the United States and sold as servants. Twelve people are to appear before a Federal Grand Jury.

Mr Edgar Best, an FBI Special Agent, said an 11-month investigation had showed that at least 25 men and five women had each been sold for up to \$3,000 (about £1,600).

## Coalition resigns in Finland

Helsinki—The Finnish Government resigned immediately after Dr Mauno Koivisto's inauguration as Finland's first Socialist president. The resignation of the coalition of Social Democrats, Centre Party, Communists and Swedish People's Party, automatically follows the change of presidency. Negotiations for a new coalition will begin in earnest next week.

## Spy found guilty

Los Angeles—Christopher Boyce, a convicted spy serving a 40-year jail term, has been found guilty of escaping from prison and could face an extra five years in jail. He sold satellite technology to the Russians.

## State of the Union message

## Republicans hail Reagan's bold approach

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 27

President Reagan, aware of the long and difficult legislative battle that lies ahead, today began trying to gather support among Congressmen and State Governors for his radical proposal to reverse the centralisation of power in America.

The plan, which was the focal point of the President's State of the Union address last night, calls for a massive realignment of government responsibilities between Washington and the states.

Reactions to the plan have been mixed, and have cut across party lines. Some Democrats have given cautious approval to the President's ideas for what has been termed the "New Federalism", while some Republicans believe that the devolution of federal powers to the states is both unwanted and unworkable.

Reactions to the rest of the President's speech, particularly his refusal to raise taxes as a means of reducing the budget deficit, were predictably partisan. Democrats accused him of failing to take steps to tackle the immediate problem of unemployment, and of punishing the poor at the expense of the rich by proposing to make further cuts in social programmes.

For Republicans, the State of the Union message showed President Reagan at his best. He managed to sound optimistic despite the state of the economy, and his rhetorical flashes produced frequent applause.

The speech, however, confirmed many of the worst fears of Democratic Congressmen. The President appeared insensitive to the concerns of ordinary Americans, and his programme on the nation whatever its eventual cost.

The President's proposal to turn over more than 40 federal programmes over to the states is designed to realize a dream that Mr Reagan had since the beginning of his political life. For years he has campaigned against big government, and what he is now proposing would make the Federal Government a good deal smaller.

The President called for the relationship between Washington and the states to be changed with "a single, bold stroke". His plan has two main parts.

The first is a \$19,000m swap, on which the Federal Government would take over the states' share of Medicaid payments for the poor, while the states would take over the Federal share of the Food Stamp Programme, and aid to families with dependent children, two cornerstones of the United States welfare system.

The second is to hand more than 40 federally-funded transport, educational and community development programmes back to the states. The Federal Government would help the states to fund these programmes through a \$28,000m trust fund to be financed by existing federal excise taxes.

The President's "New Federalism" programme was hailed by Senator Mark Hatfield (Republican, Oregon), a former State Governor, as "brilliant and fantastically creative". Senator

Orrin Hatch (Republican, Utah) commented that "the more we get these matters back to the states, the better off we are going to be."

However, Senator Robert Dole (Republican, Kansas), the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, was more cautious. As a sponsor of the Food Programme, which the President is now proposing to hand over to the states, he remarked: "I am not so certain a programme that vast could be administered in 50 different ways. We're having enough trouble administering it one way."

Congressmen appeared to agree about two main aspects of the President's plan. First, it will be an immense and complicated task to get it through Congress. At present, the Administration has still not worked out whether the programme transfers will be submitted piecemeal or as one package. Either way, the chances of having the plan approved during this legislative session, which will be abbreviated by the forthcoming elections, will be slim indeed.

Second, the "New Federalism" plan does not address the country's immediate economic problems. It is only due to start operating in 1984, and will not be complete until 1991.

The President conceded in his speech that forthcoming budget deficits would be higher than originally anticipated, but blamed this on the recession and the policies followed by previous administrations. Admitting that the economy would continue to face difficult moments in the months ahead, he nevertheless rejected any "quick fix" course-correction in the face of huge budgetary deficits over the next three years.

The President intends to tackle the budget problem by making additional cuts in spending programmes, and by closing numerous loopholes in the tax code. He said that this year's deficit would be "less" than \$100,000, and predicted that there would be a reduction in the deficits over the next two years. However, his election campaign pledge of "balanced budgets" for 1984 was studiously ignored.

President Reagan's refusal to heed the advice of many of his senior officials and Republican Party leaders, who had advocated an increase in excise taxes, drew criticism from Democrats and Republicans alike.

Senator William Armstrong (Republican, Colorado) said it appeared that the Administration was now prepared to accept a deficit of between \$276,000m and \$500,000m over the next three years. Neither Wall Street nor the man in the street was going to accept that scale of deficit, he said.

Mr Donald Reagan, the Treasury Secretary, said today that the deficit should go down to \$80,000m or even less by 1984.

Whatever sense of unease Republicans may have felt about some aspects of the President's speech, they nevertheless seemed pleased with his over all tone. Here was a President who was determined to stick to his guns, who would not allow even to divert him from his original programme, as had happened to many of his predecessors.

The President made the right noises about civil rights and women's rights, he was tough on crime, and he announced an important initiative—the creation of "enterprise zones" in depressed urban areas—designed to revive poor neighbourhoods and do something about unemployment.

Leading article, page 13

## President to persist with tax and federal cuts

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Jan 27

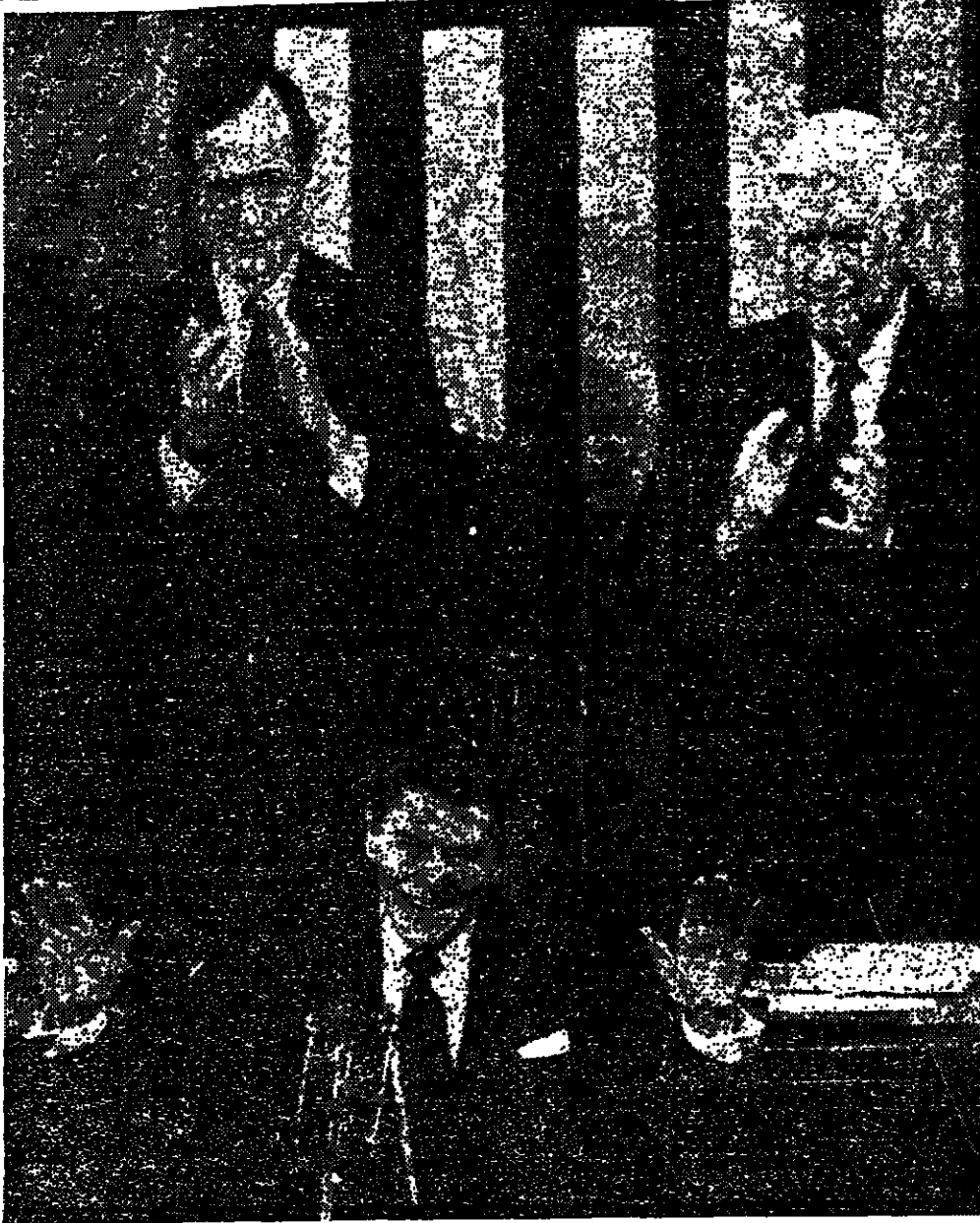
That Mr Reagan all but ignored the spiralling federal deficit was noted by Republicans and Democrats in briefings after the speech.

"I had hoped the President would address the state of the union in 1982, when we have record unemployment among auto workers and interest rates are too high," Mr James Jones, chairman of the House budget committee, said.

Even Mr Robert Michel, the House Minority leader, who is regarded as a loyal party leader, expressed doubts about the deficit and his ability to contain disaffected Republicans this year, when elections are due.

The big question now is whether Mr Reagan's strategy of focusing on a new partnership with the states will succeed in diverting attention from the economic realities of mounting deficits, unemployment and slow growth. Without specifics from the White House, it is too soon to say.

At the same stage, the new federalism is still a concept which Mr Reagan may refine after holding extensive consultations with state and local leaders.



Big hand for the President: Watched by Vice-President George Bush and Mr "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker, Mr Reagan acknowledges the applause of Congress.

## 'We are making progress'

Washington, Jan 27.—The following is a partial text of President Reagan's State of the Union address:

Today marks my first State of the Union address to you, a constitutional duty as old as our republic itself. When I visited this chamber last year as a newcomer to Washington, critical of past policies which I believe had failed, I proposed a new spirit of partnership between this Congress and this Administration and between Washington and our state and local governments.

It is my duty to report to you tonight on the progress we have made in our relations with other nations, on the foundation we have carefully laid for our economic recovery, and, finally, on a bold and spirited initiative that I believe can change the face of American government and make it again the servant of the people.

To understand the state of the union, we must look not only at where we are and where we are going but at where we've been. The situation at this time last year was truly ominous.

The last decade has seen a series of recessions. Government's response to these recessions was to pump up the money supply and increase spending.

This time, however, things are different. We have an economic programme in place completely different from the artificial quick-fixes of the past. It calls for reduction of the rate of increase in government spending, and already that rate has been cut nearly in half. But reduced spending alone isn't enough. We've just implemented the first and smallest phase of a three-year tax-rate reduction plan designed to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Already interest rates are down to 15% per cent, but they must still go lower. Inflation is down from 12.4 per cent to 8.9 per cent, and for the month of December it was running at an annualized rate of 5.2 per cent.

## Economic problems deeply rooted

The economy will face difficult months ahead. But the programme for economic recovery that is in place will pull the economy out of its slump and put us on the road to prosperity and stable growth by the latter half of the year.

And so the question: if the fundamentals are in place, what now? Two things. First, we must understand what is happening at the moment to the economy. Our current problems are not the product of the recovery programme that is only just now getting under way, as some would have you believe. They are the inheritance of decades of tax and tax spend and spend.

Second, because economic problems are deeply rooted and will not respond to quick political fixes, we must stick to our carefully integrated plan for recovery. That plan is based on four commonsense fundamentals: continued reduction of the growth in federal spending, preserving the individual and business tax reductions that will stimulate saving and investment, removing unnecessary federal regulations to spark productivity, and maintaining a healthy dollar and a stable monetary policy—the latter a responsibility of the federal reserve system.

As it now stands, our forecasts, which we are required by law to make, will show major deficits starting at less than 100 billion dollars

and declining, but still too high.

More important, we are making progress with the three keys to reducing deficits: economic growth, lower interest rates, and spending control. The policies we have in place will reduce the deficit steadily, surely and, in time, completely.

Raising taxes will slow economic growth, reduce production and destroy future jobs. So I will not ask you to try to balance the budget on the backs of the American taxpayers. I will seek no tax increases this year and I have no intention of retreating from our basic programme of tax relief.

The budget deficit this year will exceed our earlier estimates. The recession did that.

## National and defence social programmes

We must cut out more non-essential government spending and root out more waste, and we will continue our efforts to reduce the number of employees in the federal workforce by 75,000.

The budget plan I submit to you on February 8 will realize major savings by dismantling the Departments of Energy and Education, and by eliminating ineffective subsidies for business. We will continue to redirect our resources to our two highest budget priorities—a strong national defence to keep America free and at peace, and a reliable safety net of social programmes for those who have contributed and those who are in need.

Under the new budget, funding for social insurance programmes will be more than double the amount spent only six years ago. Now that the essentials of that programme are in place, our next major undertaking must be a programme—just as bold, just as innovative—to make government again accountable to the people, to make our system of federalism work again.

Let us solve this problem with a single, bold stroke—the return of some 47 billion dollars in federal programmes to state and local government, together with the means to finance them, and a transition period of nearly 10 years to avoid unnecessary disruption.

I will shortly send the Congress a message describing this programme. Starting in fiscal 1984, the federal government will assume full responsibility for the cost of the rapidly growing Medicaid programme to go along with its existing responsibility for Medicare. As part of a financially equal swap, the states will simultaneously take full responsibility for aid to families with dependent children and food stamps.

In 1984, the federal government will apply the full proceeds from certain excise taxes to a grassroots trust fund that will belong, in fair shares, to the 50 states. The total amount flowing into this fund will be 28 billion dollars a year.

Hand in hand with this programme to strengthen the discretion and flexibility of state and local governments, we are proposing legislation for an experimental effort to improve and develop our depressed urban areas in the 1980s and 1990s. This legislation will permit states and localities to apply to the federal government for designation as urban enterprise zones.

Our nation's long journey towards civil rights for all our citizens—once a source

of discord, now a source of pride—must continue with no backsliding or slowing down. We must and shall see that those basic laws that guarantee equal rights are preserved and when necessary strengthened. Our concern for equal rights for women is firm and unshakable.

So far I have concentrated largely on domestic matters. To view the state of the union in perspective, we must not ignore the rest of the world.

At Ottawa and Cancun, I met with leaders of the major industrial powers and developing nations. Some of those I met were a little surprised that I didn't apologize for America's wealth. Instead I spoke of the strength of the free market-place system and how it could help them realize their aspirations for economic development and political freedom.

In the vital region of the Caribbean basin, we are developing a programme of aid, trade and investment incentives to promote self-sustaining growth and a better, more secure life for our neighbours to the south. Toward those who would export terrorism and subversion in the Caribbean and elsewhere, especially Cuba and Libya, we will act with firmness.

## Policy of strength and balance

Our foreign policy is a policy of strength, fairness and balance. By restoring America's military credibility, by pursuing peace at the negotiating table where ever both sides are willing to sit down in good faith, and by regaining the respect of America's allies and adversaries alike, we have strengthened our country's position as a force for peace and progress in the world.

When action is called for, we are taking it. Our sanctions against military dictatorship that has attempted to crush human rights in Poland—and against the Soviet regime behind that military dictatorship—to the world that America will not conduct "business as usual" with the forces of oppression.

If the events in Poland continue to deteriorate, further measures will follow.

Meanwhile, we are working for reduction of arms and military activities.

In the talks it is essential that we negotiate from a position of strength. We have not neglected to strengthen our traditional alliances in Europe and Asia, or to develop key relationships with our partners in the Middle East and other countries.

Your recent passage of the Foreign Assistance Act sent a signal to the world that America would not shrink from making the investments necessary for both peace and security.

## EEC attacked over martial law 'alibis'

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 27

The failure of EEC countries to react strongly to the introduction of martial law in Poland was strongly condemned today by Mr Tomas Roseingrave, the Irish President of the Community's Economic and Social Committee.

"Tragically, it must be said that the reactions of the European countries to the events in Poland have been characterized by hesitations and expedients," he told the plenary session of the committee. "There had been 'general time wasting and tactical decision'."

He went on: "It has been said that all that is needed for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. As long as we continue on such a course it is inevitable that human rights will continue to be suppressed, not only in Poland but in other parts of the world."

He endorsed demands for an end to martial law and release of those imprisoned. He also urged that any economic or financial help for Poland should be contingent on these demands being met.

Meanwhile, part of the Western response to military rule in Poland was being prepared by a permanent representatives at Nato. They were studying the likely effects of the Polish crisis on

the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is due to restart in Madrid on February 9.

The allies have already decided that this is the most appropriate place in which to protest about martial law, since in its reappraisal of the Helsinki Final Act the conference must look into the question of human rights.

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian External Relations Minister, who is current president of the EEC's Council of Ministers, is opening the session of the conference.

Poland is, by chance, due to be in the chair at the restart and the conference is expected to end by April.

London: The leader of the West German parliamentary opposition called yesterday for a unified Western response to the military takeover in Poland (Simon Scott Plummer writes).

Dr Helmut Kohl, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, told a press conference in London that the failure to take concerted action was an invitation to aggression by the Soviet Union.

There was no doubt that General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, had imposed martial law at the instigation of the Kremlin, Dr Kohl said.

Balt-Gromyko talks, page 8  
Slavish loyalty, page 12

## Guitarist found in wardrobe

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, Jan 27

A young policeman described in court today his embarrassment when he took part in a raid on a house where a young white woman and a black man were reported to be having a love affair.

Constable Mark Venter told a Johannesburg magistrate that when police burst into the house "we were surprised not to find them in bed together." Instead, Miss Vivian Epstein, aged 23, manager of a pop group in the Soweto black township, was sitting on the bed.

When the police entered the bedroom of her home, but the group's guitarist, Mr Abraham Mahlobo, aged 27, was found hiding in a wardrobe and he was wearing only his underpants.

Both have pleaded not guilty to charges of violating the Immorality Act, which bans sex between people of different colours and which is widely considered to be one of South Africa's most discriminatory apartheid laws.

Even Mr P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister, has said publicly that he would welcome suggestions about how to redraft it to make it less offensive, although he has not gone so far as to say it should be scrapped altogether as many Government critics advocate.

But while it still law the police have the task of reacting to complaints and reports from the public. Constable Venter told the court the police went to Miss Epstein's house after a report from her neighbour, Miss Sarah Van Vuuren. He said: "We were looking for two people of different races making love."

The bed was unmade and the bedclothes untidy.

## 19 held in raids on squatters

Cape Town, Jan 27.—More than 100 South African police last night mounted their third harassing operation in as many days on a community of some 70 squatters near Cape Town, arresting nine of them. It was reported here today.

In an earlier operation yesterday, 10 people were arrested after police were attacked by a crowd of squatters holding a demonstration against "the authorities' action. All 19—10 of them women—were expected to appear in court soon.

The Star of Johannesburg reported today that four people were wounded yesterday, though police Lieutenant Gerhard van Rooyen would only say that shots had been fired.

In each of the three raids the police destroyed the shacks erected by the squatters outside the black township of Nyanga, and each time they were rebuilt. The police action aroused strong protests, especially from the main opposition Progressive Federal Party.

Last August, the South African authorities expelled several hundred people who had settled outside Nyanga, sending them back in lorries to the Transkei homeland, which they had left to seek work. South Africa claims that the "homelands" are independent countries, giving the right to expel squatters as illegal immigrants, thus controlling the number of black people allowed to work in white cities.

Although there was widespread unemployment among blacks in the Cape area, many of the squatters claimed to have at least part-time employment. Others were the wives or husbands who had permission to work in the area, but not the right to bring their families.



Mr Michael Powell: despondent after year in captivity.

## Foreign Office rebuked over Briton held in Iraq

By David Cross

Mrs Betty Powell, the mother of a British engineer who has spent the past year as a prisoner of Kurdish insurgents in northern Iraq, said yesterday that she was disheartened by the British Government's failure to secure her son's release.

She told a press conference in London that she was "a bit angry and a bit sick" at all the fuss which had surrounded the recent rescue of Mr Mark Thatcher, the Prime Minister's son, in southern Algeria.

"It seems that if you are a prominent personality every effort is made to help you. But if not all you get from the Foreign Office is sympathy," she said.

to watch a preview of a television documentary about her kidnapped son, Mr Michael Powell, and the struggle of the Kurds against the Iraqi Government. The film, which will be shown tonight on Thames Television's TV Eye programme, includes film shot by Mr Gwynne Roberts who travelled for 15 weeks across the most inaccessible regions of the Middle East to reach Mr Powell and his captors.

He discovered that although Mr Powell was being well treated he was despondent about his long captivity. He had thought that there would be released on three separate occasions but these hopes had been dashed at the last moment.

Tea Gen aga

More than 100 South African police last night mounted their third harassing operation in as many days on a community of some 70 squatters near Cape Town, arresting nine of them. It was reported here today.

## Two killers face death

From Trevor Delah

Two men arrested in the kidnapping of two children have been sentenced to hang after the place of punishment in the penal system.

May 1979 Court of Appeal while it considered the death sentence. The court found the death sentence was life imprisonment. The death sentence should be imposed. "Trust of rare case" were to have been particularly brought forward for their execution in Central Jail, the court judge said.

## MP quit over rail

From Jan 27

Mr Social Democrat Member of Parliament, Mr Harold Coppick, has resigned today in protest at the Government's decision to increase the price of rail fares.

Mr Coppick, a Labour MP, was one of the few who voted against the new National Transport Act in 1981. He said the increase in fares was a "betrayal" of the public.



# Teachers hit by German law against dissent

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 27

More than 100 teachers in Detmold, northern Germany, are under investigation by the local authorities for signing a newspaper advertisement in support of young squatters who occupied and renovated a local factory.

In Mönchengladbach, two would-be schoolmasters were refused jobs and two other teachers were barred from promotion recently because they supported another advertisement against the stationing of nuclear missiles in West Germany.

Herr Alexander Schubart, a Frankfurt municipal official, was suspended from his job pending disciplinary proceedings because he organized a demonstration against the building of a third runway at Frankfurt airport.

Ten years after it was first decreed, despite endless protests and an attempt at liberalization, West Germany's *Berufsverbot* is alive and well and has taken on new forms.

On January 28, 1972, Herr Willy Brandt, who was then Chancellor, and the Prime Ministers of the 11 *Länder* (states) issued a declaration intended to keep political extremists out of public jobs.

Anyone who engaged in "activities against the constitution" or who belonged to organizations regarded as hostile to the constitution should be barred from public employment, they decreed.

They had the best of intentions. Extreme left-wing leaders of the 1968 student rebellion had announced a "march through the institutions" to subvert the system from within.

With bitter memories of how the Nazis gained control of the state bureaucracy, Herr Brandt and the others were anxious to defend West Germany's young democracy. They were putting into force postwar laws which stated explicitly that public jobs can only be given to those "who at all times champion the free democratic system".

But after a few years had passed its authors, like the sorcerer's apprentice, became agitated at the mischief they had unwittingly unleashed.

Many thousands of young people who applied for jobs found their past histories were being checked with the security services. Past or present membership of or simply association with extremist groups such as the communists, participation in demonstrations and other political activities were held

# Cruise ship ban ends holiday for Britons

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Jan 27

A Cape Town-to-London cruise ended today for hundreds of Britons after the liner *Achille Lauro* had been held in the Canary Islands for alleged non-payment of debts. Most of the passengers were to be flown home.

The ship, owned by Laura Lines, of Naples, arrived in Santa Cruz, Tenerife, on Saturday. At midday, according to Spanish naval authorities, a court order was served on the master, barring the vessel from leaving.

Authorities said the order was a result of proceedings instigated by a company in Hamburg for alleged non-payment of container rentals. The debt was reported to be about £190,000.

Agents in Tenerife said at least three-quarters of the 436 passengers were British, and that two aircraft were chartered to fly all but 20 or 30 of them to Gatwick.

The other passengers going to Britain were to go to Cadiz by ferry, the agent said. He did not give details about the rest of their journey, saying that arrangements were made by the tour operator.

A spokesman at the British consulate in Santa Cruz said officials were not requested to intervene in the matter.

There was a fire on the *Achille Lauro* while it was on its way to South Africa last month. Three people were listed dead or missing.

# Charting Zimbabwe's future

## Mugabe tests opinion on one-party state

From Michael Hornsby, Salisbury

Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, has told *The Times* that he is actively seeking support for the setting up of a one-party state, and that as far as his own Zanu (PF) party is concerned it is "not a matter of whether (such a state) is feasible but when it shall come about".

Interviewed in his modest Salisbury office, the Prime Minister insisted, however, that he was in no hurry: "There are obvious constitutional restraints on us and one does not want to bring this about by way of illegal imposition, nor does one want to bring this about hastily. One wants to discuss this as widely as possible".

Mr Mugabe's carefully balanced comments need to be set against the much more populist tone of speeches he has made during recent tours of the countryside. In these he has declared that Zanu (PF) will "rule forever", that it is above Parliament because it represents the people, and that opposition parties "bent on destroying the country" should not be allowed to exist.

Mr Mugabe also drew fire from Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the Patriotic Front (formerly Zapu), by announcing that they were to meet soon to discuss the merger of their two parties, which is currently rule in coalition, as the precursor to the formation of a one-party state. Mr Nkomo said he knew of no plans for such discussions and accused Mr Mugabe of riding roughshod over the



Robert Mugabe: shades of opinion under one umbrella

of the 100 MPs in the Assembly. (Until 1987 20 of these seats are reserved for whites and currently filled by Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front Party.)

Undeniably, in his more demagogic vein, Mr Mugabe often leaves the impression that the one-party state is just round the corner. He insisted during his interview with me, however, that the purpose of his recent speeches had merely been to "tell the people that they should not think nothing is being done in this direction". His supporters were urging such a step on him, but it was "not a matter we should rush into just now".

Mr Mugabe also said that, despite Mr Nkomo's denial, he fully expected talks on uniting Zanu (PF) and the Patriotic Front to go ahead in a week or two. "Frankly, I think (he) needs unity more than we do", he said, and claimed that the initiative for such discussions had come from Mr Nkomo after a meeting with President Canaan Banana.

Asked to define what he meant by a one-party state, Mr Mugabe said: "I mean a democratic state where only one party operates as the political organ to determine the policies the Government will pursue. I also mean that one party shall arise as the result of the democratic will of the people". The possibility of a referendum has been mooted.

As Mr Mugabe describes it, a kind of national front would be set up, incorporating different political groups, which would effectively replace Parliament as the forum where policy issues are debated and decided.

"What I have in mind really is that you will bring all shades of opinion together under one umbrella. You have within that one-party system the opportunity for people of different viewpoints to express those viewpoints. But at the end of the day, when the decision is taken by the majority, that will be the decision of the party and will also be translated into the decision of the Government", the Prime Minister said.

There is no doubt that such a system is widely felt in Zimbabwe to be more appropriate to an African country than the multi-party Westminster model bequeathed by the Lancaster House settlement.

It is obviously a matter of concern to Mr Mugabe that, despite winning 57 of the 80 common roll seats at the pre-independence elections, he does not have a truly national base since the vast bulk of his support comes from the Shona-speaking central and north-eastern areas.

Mr Nkomo and his followers do not dispute the case for a one-party state, which excites more alarm outside the country than it does inside (even among whites), but he is plainly reluctant to be rushed into it for fear that his party would merely end up being subsumed in the larger Zanu (PF).

# Salisbury police seek second white MP

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Jan 27

Zimbabwe security police have been issued with ministerial orders to arrest a second white MP, Mr Denis Walker, who returned here from a holiday in South Africa last week.

Members of the Central Intelligence Organization, the State security bureau, were stationed around the House of Assembly today to detain Mr Walker if he arrived to take his place.

But the MP for Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front Party, who has twice attended Parliament since returning to Zimbabwe last week, did not put in an appearance, and close associates said they had not seen him since yesterday.

Meanwhile, lawyers acting for Mr Wally Stuttaford, another MP who has been held under emergency powers at Chikuruba maximum security prison since December 11, said they expected a summons to be served on Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, the Security Minister, in the next two days. The MP is claiming damages from the Minister, who is in charge of the CIO, for torture which he claims he suffered in detention.

It is understood that, when the police arrested Mr Stuttaford for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government, they were also seeking Mr Walker. However, the Bulawayo South MP had left the country a few days earlier for a holiday.

# Two Indian killers face death

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 27

Two men are due to be hanged here on Sunday for the kidnapping and murder of two children. Their case has raised again the debate over the place of capital punishment in the Indian penal system.

In May 1979 the Supreme Court stayed all executions while it decided on the constitutional validity of the death sentence. In November 1980 the court said that the normal sentence for murder was life imprisonment, and that the death sentence should be imposed in the "rarest of rare cases".

The two Delhi murderers were to have been hanged two months ago, for a particularly brutal crime committed in 1978. However, shortly before the time fixed for their execution in Delhi Central Jail, they were reprieved by three Supreme Court judges.

Once again all executions were stayed, while the Court considered the extent of the President's powers, under the constitution, to grant clemency. Although the Court has now decided that the question of presidential powers does not apply in the case of one of the condemned men, this prisoner is making legal moves to seek another reprieve. It is still not certain that both men will be hanged on Sunday.

# Jail doctor commits suicide

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, Jan 27

A West Berlin prison doctor had hanged himself in desperation over disciplinary action because he allegedly sympathized too much with hunger-striking terrorists.

Dr Volker Leschhorn, aged 49, was the physician in charge at Moabit prison in West Berlin last spring when six terrorists there joined comrades in other parts of West Germany in a hunger strike to demand better conditions. He refused demands by the authorities to force-feed the hunger strikers, preferring to cultivate a relationship of trust.

He pressed for improvements in their living conditions and even supported demands — which the authorities rejected as unacceptable — that the prisoners be transferred to Berlin from other prisons.

The hunger strike ended after another terrorist who was being force-fed, died in the cell. The fact that none of the West Berlin prisoners died was attributed to Dr Leschhorn's good offices.

But later the authorities started disciplinary proceedings, alleging that he "sympathized in an unjustifiable manner" with the terrorists. He said he had prevented officials from searching their cells where, it later emerged, they had stored a rope in the hope of escaping.

# MP quits Schmidt party over missile policy

Bonn, Jan 27. — A left-wing Social Democrat (SPD) Member of Parliament, Herr Manfred Coppel, quit the party today in protest at Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's defence and environment policies.

"I can no longer share responsibility for the policies of this government," he said in a letter to the SPD chairman, Herr Willy Brandt, which he read at a news conference.

Herr Coppel, a 38-year-old lawyer, was one of six SPD deputies who voted against the defence budget last week. He opposed Nato plans to deploy new United States medium-range nuclear missiles in West Germany from 1983.

"The Nato rearmament decision was a fatal error and a threat to peace", he wrote in the letter to Herr Brandt,

returning his party card after 20 years of membership. Herr Coppel will join Herr Karl-Heinz Hansen, who was expelled from the SPD last year as an independent left-wing backbencher.

They plan to call a "conference of democratic socialists" in March to discuss the possible formation of a new party, grouping supporters of the peace movement and ecologists.

The new group is unlikely to become a mass movement, but political analysts believe it could damage the SPD's electoral chances and might win the 5 per cent of votes necessary to enter Parliament.

Herr Coppel accused the Bonn government of dismantling West Germany's social welfare system to boost defence spending disproportionately.

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\*Figures quoted are based on Government estimates 1981/82 and include cigarettes, cigars and tobaccos, plus VAT.

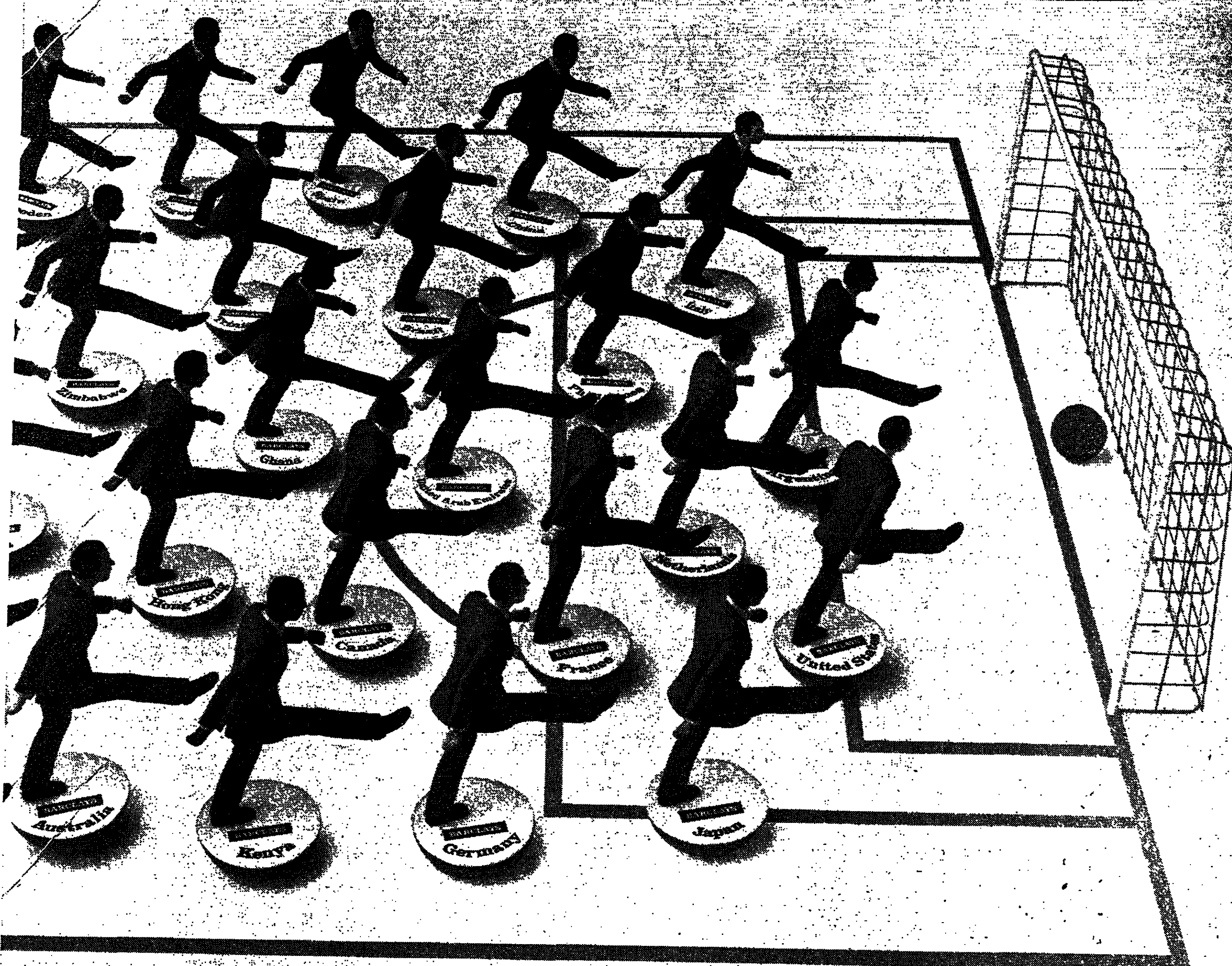






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BOOKS

# Hawks, doves, gulls and cuckoos

## The Baroque Arsenal

By Mary Kaldor

(André Deutsch, £7.95)

## The Nuclear Barons

By Peter Pringle and James Spigelman

(Michael Joseph, £12.95)

## Nuclear Illusion and Reality

By Solly Zuckerman

(Collins, £7.50; paperback £4.95)

One of the principal dangers posed by the current resurgence of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is not that it will cause the country (or, for that matter, other) unilaterally to abandon its nuclear weapons. No government, present or foreseeable, is likely to behave in such a quixotic manner; international security is too complicated a matter to be susceptible to the slogans of instant protest. What is more likely is that the shrill and generally uninformed clamour of the "peace movement" will submerge and ultimately silence the voices of those who are seriously concerned with disarmament.

Already anyone who casts doubt upon the methods or the motives of the unilateralists is likely to be pilloried as a hawk or cold warrior who can hardly wait to get his hands on a few megaton warheads and "destroy mankind several times over" to borrow the confused newspeak typical of the protest industry. This conveniently obscures the fact that many who criticize CND and its allied groups are not neutralists and pacifists do so because they believe that if the unilateralists succeeded they would make genuine disarmament much more



Anti-nuclear photomontage by Peter Kennard

difficult to achieve and war much more likely to occur.

A more immediate danger is reflected in the anti-Americanism of the anti-capitalist, anti-WATO flavour of much of the propaganda of CND. This insidious moral asymmetry is vividly exemplified in a new book by Mary Kaldor, a stern critic of western defence policies who now turns her attention from nuclear weapons to other forms of advanced military technology, whimsically described as "baroque" weapons. The message, however, is much the same. Modern armaments, we are instructed in the painful jargon of the social scientist, are exclusively the preserve of the military-industrial complex of the United States and her allies; the "conservative" Soviet Union has been forced

to follow suit. Some idea of the profundity and objectivity of the research which has gone into this tired farrago may be deduced from Miss Kaldor's acknowledgement of the "grotesque Vickers-Elswick" whose experiences inspired many of the ideas in this book.

A more ambitious undertaking altogether is that of Peter Pringle and James Spigelman, who have set out to cover "the full story of atomic energy policy in every country that has gone nuclear." The publishers' promise of "cool objectivity" is somewhat at odds both with the title of the book and its subtitle — "The inside story of how they created our nuclear nightmare." The conclusions of the authors include the proposition that the concept of nuclear deter-

rence is "truly insane, a manifestation of intellectual barbarism"; and the suggestion that "even without the link to nuclear proliferation, nuclear power carries dangers of magnitude that we ought not to accept." No clear idea emerges as to the provision of alternatives in either case.

It is a relief to turn to an analysis by someone who has been deeply and closely concerned for many years with problems of this kind and whose intellectual distinction is self-evident. Lord Zuckerman has identified some of the crucial elements in the generally confused arguments about nuclear weapons and deterrence. He argues convincingly, as he has been doing for 20 years or more, that the concept of "limited" or "tactical" nuclear war is a grotesque aberration; that both sides in the nuclear confrontation already have more than enough nuclear weapons for the needs of security; and that arms limitation is an essential ingredient of future survival. He proposes the eventual abandonment of research and development on nuclear weapons; but "there are powerful reasons why Britain should not espouse the cause of unilateral disarmament."

Lord Zuckerman's book expounds the classic case for multilateral arms control and disarmament with authority and humanity. It leaves in the mind two ironic reflections. One is that the three former Prime Ministers who formed the virtues of the author: the dust-cover might have done better to listen to him more closely when they were in office; and the other is that, although Lord Zuckerman has effectively demolished the case for nuclear war, his book will continue assiduously to quote him, out of context, in support of their campaign.

Alun Chalfont

## Maps and Dreams

Indians and the British Columbia Frontier

By Hugh Brody

(Jill Norman/Hobhouse, £7.95)

I must have flown over Hugh Brody's territory once, when I was anxious to reach Dawson City before winter locked it in. Down below, his Beaver Indians would have been withdrawing from their trappings to begin a holiday season during the snowbound months. That has been a pattern of their tribe since long before the white men came to the sub-Arctic of British Columbia; and if enough people pay attention to Mr Brody's book the Beaver may be allowed to continue in their ancient ways — in spite of the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline, which threatens their culture and economy more completely than even the combined assaults of fur traders, hoodluggers and "sporting" hunters have managed to.

Mr Brody taught social philosophy before becoming hooked on the Canadian North, and in 1978 he dropped anchor among the Beaver as part of a research project commissioned by the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. He was expected to do what he could within a few weeks, but ended by remaining for three years. We may be thankful

for that because this unusually constructed but fascinating book is a result. Its 16 chapters alternate between a social scientist's report (an uncommonly well written I may say) and an extended description of Mr Brody's own experiences among the Beaver, executed with the touch of a novelist.

The scientific chapters include a large number of clear maps and diagrams which illustrate hunting habits, berry-picking areas, Indian camping sites and so forth. The whole fits together with the felicity of that damned cube.

It is hunting economy that has enabled the Beaver to survive — and there are more of them now than there were when the European arrived. There are rainbow trout and Dolly Vardens to be taken from the rivers; moose, elk, caribou and deer to be shot on the forested land. There is no wanton killing, just as much as is needed for the pot (but on the Halfway Reserve, white "sportsmen" shoot four times as many moose in two months as the local Indians take in one year). The Beaver are despised for this way of life, as well as for the fact that they can get hopelessly drunk on liquor that white men have taken from them addicted to when they have time on their hands. Yet the most striking thing about Mr Brody's account is the dignity of these people living undisturbed just above the poverty line, and their attachment to the skills and other ways of their past.

They can tell whether they are tracking a bull or a cow from the angle at which urine has hit the snow. They lay a calf's foetus to rest with tender ceremony because

incipient life is to be cherished for its own sake. Clock time is of no significance to them, only the seasons of the year. They live partly at a mystical level that Westerners hardly ever touch. It includes hunting in a panthera you forswear a dream the night before; and making maps out of dreams that show the way to heaven, inscribed on moosehide with thousands of coloured marks. We may well ask ourselves whether all this should be sacrificed in the interests of an alien energy policy for short-term gain. The Beaver have no particular wish to coddle themselves with central heating.

I'd guess that *Maps and Dreams* was offered to some of the bigger British publishers and was turned down in due course. As most of them these days don't know whether they're on their knees or their hindquarters, this wouldn't surprise me. I have to tell them, though, that they've missed a minor classic here. I hope it brings prosperity to the smaller house that recognized its worth.

## Down among the Beaver

Geoffrey Moorhouse

# Lonely impulse

## High Ambition

A Biography of Reinhold Messner

By Ronald Faux

(Gollancz, £9.95)

Because it's there is not a sufficient reason for most of us. I can see that there is peace and beauty and silence and absence of telephones in the highest places on earth. But you can find all of them without vertigo and frostbite. Dante got it right when he made the deepest hole in the inferno not hot but cold, cold as hell. Messner is the Austrian nutter who climbs mountains the hard way. He chooses the most difficult routes. He trots up Everest without oxygen because such artificial aids would lower the mountain. The essence of his climbing style is speed, because at such high altitudes brain deterioration begins. Uh-huh, say most of us.

Readers of *The Times* will know Ronald Faux as a fine reporter with a taste for outdoor activities. He went up Everest for us, and was only dissuaded from having a go at the summit by the need to file copy. He has mountained the world's highest peaks, including the one which would be squeezed with caution. His book captures for plainlanders something of the excitement of high places, occasionally losing us in mountaineer's metaphysics: "The core of his mind felt numb, but his body reached out for that ultimate point."

It does not satisfactorily explain why. Climbing has become for Messner an act of introspection, of watching, almost dispassionately, how he himself reacts to the extreme circumstances into which mountaineering puts him. Messner's own book, *K2 Mountain of Mountains* (Kaye & Ward, £12.50), which he went up without any of that cissy oxygen again, throws some light on the megalomania and personality conflict up the big mountains. Messner writes that he felt let down by one member of his team on a personal level, by another as a climber. Most of the text is Sandro Gogan's diary. What we need is some mountaineer who can explain the human spirit like Graham Greene to explain the lonely impulse of exploration that drives men to the highest places on earth. But then, of course, the highest mountains are not physical ones. But for Icarus' sake don't tell Reinhold Messner that.

Philip Howard

## Ancient of faces

## George Richmond

By Raymond Lister

(Robinson, £35)

It is surprising that until now no proper biography of George Richmond has appeared, since he was one of the best as well as one of the most prolific nineteenth century British portrait painters. His original works and the portraits of his family and friends are in the collection of the Tate Gallery. The book is a study of many who would be hard put to name the artist. However, he was far more than a mere Winterhalter, a recorder of public faces, his sitters are alive; and more than a sensitive portraitist, since his early association with Blake influenced his thinking for much of his long life.

As a young man, Richmond, together with Palmer, Calvert and a small group of like-minded friends, formed "The Ancients" who gathered at Shoreham as disciples of Blake. Despite his later worldly success — on one occasion in the 1870s he was paid one thousand guineas for a portrait of the Queen — he never lost touch with these early friends, and the Ancients continued to hold monthly sketching evenings well into middle age.

Almost everyone of power and influence in Victorian England came to him, with the exception of the Queen herself, who may have resented his refusal to record Prince Albert on his deathbed. His own influence on the artistic thinking of the time was marked.

Raymond Lister, a fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a noted Blake scholar, shows Richmond to have been a most sympathetic man as well as a considerable artist. At times a formidable Victorian paterfamilias, his sternness was leavened by a strong sense of humour, and the end of his life he celebrated the anniversary of his elopement to Gretna Green with the sister of a fellow Ancient.

Huon Mallahieu

# Many faces of Boz

## Dickens:

Interviews and Recollections

Edited by Philip Collins

(Macmillan, two vols, £15 each)

Professor Collins, whose vast literary output on the subject of Boz has turned him into something of a one-man Dickens industry, has filled 537 pages with striking evidence that, however right Longfellow might have been about everybody else, he was spectacularly wrong about Charles Dickens. His verdict, based on anything but passing acquaintance with Victorian England's best-loved author, was that "Dickens saved himself for his books, there was nothing to be learned in private — he never talked."

These two volumes of observations, culled from the recollections of men and women who either knew Dickens or watched him at work and play (often the same thing for this phenomenon enunciated by Dickens's biographer John Forster: "His literary work was so intensely one with his nature that he is not separable from it.")

As Professor Collins has produced no fewer than 72 chapters, we have to accept with good grace a great deal of reiterated and sweeping flattery about Dickens. In this respect, the effectiveness of the Irish writer Percy Forster is archetypal: "He was always unspoiled, never subject to any humours, or changes or caprices." It was, of course, precisely because he was guilty of all these charges and caprices, plus a hundred others, that Dickens was the most mercurial private and public figure of his day.

It could also be argued that if Dickens's acquaintances cannot even agree about the colour of his eyes (variously described as black, warm

grey, light blue, and green hazel), their testimony on other respects must be suspect. But, the clever thing about Professor Collins's editorship of these reminiscences is that he gives us eye-witness accounts of a man who is constantly evolving, from writer to writer/actor, from national idol to international celebrity, from young dandy ("a rather exuberant display of jewelry on his vest and on his fingers") to autumnal and witless squire of Gad's Hill ("worn by slowly rolling years, pale fragile and stooping").

No single figure rises, then, when we ask after reading these two volumes: "Will the real Charles Dickens please stand up." There is an infinity of them.

Dip into Professor Collins's two volumes where you will find some fascinating or half-forgotten tidbit about Dickens beckons to be savoured. We are assured that he changed his collar several times a day; combed his hair a hundred times a day; was an insatiable cigarette smoker; and remembered points in his public speeches by imagining them as spokes in a wheel which the wind would remove one by one until nothing remained but the rim, and nothing more remained to be said.

And there is a privy counsellor, unctuously arraying Queen Victoria that when she met Dickens — "he, too, has the most anxious desire to raise what we call the lower classes" — she might consider treating "this really eminent man" as a guest and not merely as a reader, and that he might ask his advice about which of his books she should read next — perhaps *Copperfield*? In the event, Dickens visited Buckingham Palace, the topics discussed were the servant question and the cost of bread and meat.

Peter Davalle

# Wet among the Peers

## Their Noble Lordships

By Simon Winchester

(Faber, £7.95)

Every now and then some back casting around for an idea for a book hits upon the jolly-sounding notion of a contemporary survey of the hereditary peerage. It all seems good clean fun — interviews with publicity-minded peers (perhaps odd lunch?), a round-up of a few black sheep, acres of figures about landownership, analyses of titles, a Gilbertian look at the House of Lords and some sort of "spirit of the age" conclusion. Mix in plenty of clichés about feudalism, footmen and foralock-tugging, some hereditary solecisms, a deal of inverted snobbery and there you have it. The trouble is that these ludicrously "bad" books written by people blissfully unencumbered with the slightest knowledge of the subject often sell quite nicely, and what is more, they are self-perpetuating. Each of them tends to repeat the same old mistakes, to miss point after point and to parade the same dreary prejudices to the extent that to disabuse readers of all this drivel becomes well-nigh impossible.

The latest try to his hand at this type of book is Simon Winchester, a drippingly wet liberal who made his name on *The Guardian* by sucking up to the IRA and sneering at Solzhenitsyn (remember Levin's crushing reply?). His first effort, printed three years ago, fell foul of numerous lordly lawyers and had to be withdrawn when already under starters' orders. Some of the problems were caused by the effects of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, though in this revised edition Mr Winchester has gone as near as makes no difference to naming one particular

Marquess who was a guest of His Late Majesty for three years. Apart from the cuts imposed by the lawyers, one wonders how much real revision has been undertaken by the author; the book is frequently out of date. The learned Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that ilk has clearly had a hand in the overhaul; many of the plummy footnotes can be confidently attributed to this colourful scholar. In fact some of them flatly contradict what is stated in the text above which makes for a rum read.

To be fair to Mr Winchester this second attempt is an improvement on his first — as far as I can recall the "suppressed" version contained about one mistake a page, this time the average is nearer one every two-and-a-half pages. As he has regaled us with so many meaningless statistics I offer these by way of exchange from a total of some 259 pages of actual text (as opposed to absurd maps, corny or pointless epigraphs, etc.). I counted very nearly 100 errors ranging from really whopping howlers to mere misspellings of names. This is surely ample evidence for any book with even half a claim to be taken seriously.

To my surprise, Mr Winchester acknowledges me as being "particularly helpful" in his preface, though I don't recall doing more than giving him permission to quote from *Burke's* editorials. I was also somewhat taken aback by Mr Winchester's descriptions of your reviewer as "financially harassed" and as a "caryatid" (female figure) — actionable, perhaps.

Looking through my heavily annotated copy of *Their Noble Lordships*, I see that my marginal comments start by being pedantic, then become incredulous, angry and finally become a running commentary on the book rather than in the manner of Evelyn Waugh, to just scribbling No, No, No, No.

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

# Social history on the cards

## The Complete Catalogue of British Cigarette Cards

Compiled by The London Cigarette Card Company

(Webb & Bower, £12.50)

Once cadged eagerly by small boys ("got any fagcards, mister?"), cigarette cards have become serious and often expensive business. Some sets from before the First World War are fetching £1,000 and more and last year a single card, thought to be the earliest issued in Britain, was auctioned for £510.

Collecting has got so keen that in the last five years prices have risen on average by 140 per cent, with cricketers and film stars in particular demand.

Why should otherwise rational human beings be prepared to pay such extraordinary sums for little pieces of coloured cardboard? The answer, surely, is a combination of scarcity and nostalgia. Since they were stopped in 1940 by the wartime paper shortage, very few cards have appeared in cigarette packets and the field has been largely abandoned to the confectionery and tea companies. It seems unlikely there will be cigarette cards on any serious scale again, certainly nothing to match the 600 million sets of "Railway Engines" which Wills printed in 1936. The appeal of the cards is not hard to understand: they are attractive to look at, frequently informative, and they faithfully reflect the social history of their age, whether depicting wars, coronations or such rich anachronisms as Military Uniforms of the British Empire Overseas.

This handsomely produced catalogue lists every known set of cards issued since 1888, grouped by manufacturer and with current prices. There is a brief history of the subject and hints on collecting, and a store of them. Above all, the cards themselves, more than 600 of them, are illustrated in their full, coloured splendour.

Peter Waymark

# Science fiction

## A Better Mantrap

By Bob Shaw

(Gollancz, £6.95)

There are certain names in SF that come round again and again like a revolving door. And, by now, you'd expect such whizz-kids to be fairly conventional in their writing. Not so. Such is their impetus from the genre that, although they're rarely lost from its moorings, they're still always disposed to a certain amount of revolution. Mr Shaw is one of these.

His clutch of stories, while always being tethered to vivid and credible characterization, yet manages to do all kinds of things with SF. In "Dream Fighter" he's reworking the idea of the best boxing movie ever made, "The Set-Up" but via an aging pugilist-psychic whose speciality is creating nightmares for others. In "Frost Animals" the detective story becomes the take-off point for a suspect away on a space exploration, pursuing the real killer 18 years after the crime. "The



Portrait of a man, likely related to the book 'If I forget thee, O, Jerusalem'.

## If I forget thee, O, Jerusalem

The Holy City in Literature

Edited by Miriam Grindea

(Kahn & Averil, £7.50)

Mr Grindea has compiled an anthology of literary references to Jerusalem from the time of David and Solomon to the present day. Almost all the authors are Jews or Christians, though a handful of Moslem or Arabic extracts are included, not particularly interesting ones and their function perhaps more to give an impression of comprehensiveness, like having a trade unionist in the board room (and a number of minor errors show editorial unfamiliarity in this area).

With Jerusalem as the sole theme a thousand anthologies could be compiled without any duplication. The choice must be personal, and it would be absurd to complain of favourites omitted. Mr Grindea has cast his net happily wide, taking in descriptions by visitors to the real city, and to the dream city of a celestial one. Chesterton rubs shoulders with Langland, Willibald with Wesley, Koestler with Malinoides, and there are many unknowns we should be grateful for being introduced to.

In the introductory note to the final of his ten chapters Mr Grindea joins the noble army of visionaries: "It may yet dawn upon the lazy consciences of clumsy politicians and narrow sighted theologians the true meaning of the Holy City is the assertion of the fundamental unity of the spirit." Perhaps Graham Greene is nearer the mark when he writes: "Jerusalem's existence will always seem temporary and precarious as if she stood in the eye of a cyclone." But on the whole Mr Grindea avoids the politics of the jarring sects, though some may think he carries discretion too far when he speaks of the city having in the last few years received "the seal of modernity, energy and optimism." Is this the way to describe the terrible high-rise structures which for strategic reasons now ring Jerusalem, as menacing as the encircling armies of Nebuchadnezzar or Titus?

E.C. Hodgkin

# Fiction

## The Great Fire of London

By Peter Ackroyd

(Hamish Hamilton, £7.95)

## The Woods

By David Plante

(Gollancz, £7.95)

"To think that you could just take Dickens and bundle him into the twentieth century. We don't live in the same world," Peter Ackroyd, citizen of no mean city, has written no mean first novel. He is determined to drive us back to Dickens; and he does. Skillfully, in a story shot through with pity, menace, and recognition that all of us — the quick and the dead — are implicated in each other's lives, Mr Ackroyd demonstrates that you can take a Dickens anywhere.

The vortex, in his whirling cyclorama, is Spenser Spender's movie fiction, *Little Dorrit*. Short, cinematic chapters cross a vivid collection of Londoners: Audrey, Tim,

Laetitia Spender, Andrew, Pally, Rowan Phillips, homosexual lecturer at a Cambridge "resembling a film set which has been left standing for too long"; Little Arthur, dwarf proprietor of Fun City's pinball machines, grotesque only in degree of desperation. By chance or instinct, each spinning in private, joyless obsession, they gravitate ever closer to *Little Dorrit*; some to disaster.

Mr Ackroyd is not the best English novelist yet to capture London's disorienting disappointments; its posturing, cheap bravura; its dreadful cheerlessness, applied by Londoners to Londoners. But his understanding of the best, like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, is extensive and peculiar: the poor and the unloved; "banks of television sets in windows, each with the same image." A properly dramatic climax is scarcely needed. In the time-capsule of a bus journey, a child tries to spur silent parents into conversation and contact: "Mummy, are there always flowers after winter?" In Eating Common a spiritualist medium answers the telephone: "You have to realise, my dear, that I can't work miracles. Not even for

my regulars." Here's richness.

Now and again a novelist gives infinite riches in a little room. *The Woods* is David Plante's eighth book; a third interior landscape scrutinized with extraordinary intensity by Daniel Francoeur, a young man with miles to go before he sleeps. We have met him before, in *The Family and The Country*. *The Woods*, through which we go back to Daniel at 18, is also set in New England. There, almost no plot; only time, and space. Perfectly written, in tones as hushed as the snow which is Mr Plante's characteristic image of silence and separation, it lacks for nothing in 120 pages of muted, scrupulous prose.

Daniel's consciousness contracts to obsessive awareness of and concentration upon the body. For a young man, the world itself can be a body: his own, a girl's; a dark planet he longs to know, but wants to keep inviolate. Daniel's relationships with his college roommates, with the same bright lake, and with his older brother in the Marine Corps, teach him that for all his struggle to see, through the body, to the

soul, the body has promises to keep. It has to work; be fed; be sent out to war, and die.

*The Woods* is lovely, dark, and deep. In natural, powerful metaphors it reflects and contrasts our longing for a different world with the fact that we must live and die in this one.

Days of Greatness, by Walter Kempowski (Secker & Warburg, £7.95): Leila Vennewitz translates this large, exuberant novel — at once a mosaic of affluent North Germany between 1900 and 1918, and a personal chronicle. Walter Kempowski's forbears were shipping magnates and factory owners in Rostock and Hamburg. His book, part epic of novels published to praise at home, dovetails a merchant-prince-and-princess romance into jostling, opulently detailed scenes of family, social, and business life before and during the first nightmare of dugouts and defeat.

An English aunt, arriving in 1903 as a young bride, finds "an old-fashioned world but a good one where one could not help but feel at ease."

Gay Firth

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Tom Hutchinson



# The missing half million

— out of work and out of the statistics

by Frank Field MP

Tuesday's unemployment figures showed that a record one in eight of the workforce is now without a job. Throughout Question Time that day the Prime Minister exchanged blows with the Opposition but somehow the House failed to catch the mood in the country. Today the Commons has another chance to speak as the nation feels.

Many unemployed in my constituency appear distinctly schizophrenic when asked about their joblessness. A quiet anger is combined with a private grief and guilt. Although Mrs Thatcher emphasizes that unemployment is the price we pay in our fight against inflation, many feel their unemployment is partly the result of their own inadequacies. The Pool Law tradition, in which poverty and unemployment were signs of moral failing, stalks the country. It is this irrational feeling of personal guilt which helps to explain why unemployment can rise so high and so fast and there to be almost no extra-parliamentary threat.

But there can be little doubt that unemployment is borne as a private grief. One of my young constituents — now in work — described the cycle of events which is common to many unemployed people. At first it is a bit of a shock, then a bit of a let-down. But that did not last long, particularly as he felt he was getting under his mother's feet "and there's a limit to the amount of decorating you can do". Any job was taken, no matter how short the duration, or how low the pay, providing it got him out of the house.

I asked what was the worst thing about being unemployed. "It's when you come back from another interview after being turned down yet again. You feel such a failure. Often I cry". One of the questions which has featured in the Commons this week is how accurately the official figures reflect the true level of unemployment. Some people maintain that there are claimants who, although registered for work, would be unwilling to take a job if one was offered to them. It is difficult to quantify how many unemployed claimants are in this position, and the only true test of a person's willingness to work is to offer him a job.

Then there are those who have retired early and, to gain credits on their national insurance card, are registered as unemployed, even though they have no intention of taking a job. The Government estimates that a minimum of 20,000 people are in this group. And it would be surprising if there were not some unemployed claimants drawing benefit while working at the same time.

On the other hand there are those who argue that the official figures significantly under-represent the true level of unemployment. This week's figures put the jobless total at 3,070,600. But the Department of Employment accepts that four groups of claimants are excluded from the unemployment count. These are:

- Adult students 10,401
- Temporarily stopped 31,705
- Non-claimants seeking part-time work 45,696
- Disabled unemployed seeking sheltered employment 11,934

Officially this group of 100,000 unemployed is invisible for purposes of the Department's count.

Government surveys show there is an even larger number of claimants who are actively seeking work but are not registered as unemployed. The main reason is that they are not entitled to National Insurance benefit and are often ineligible for supplementary benefit. If jobs are scarce, many unemployed claimants feel there is little point in registering. Some are very poor — at last count in 1977 150,000 had incomes below the poverty line.

The rules requiring claimants to register for work before they can claim benefit are being revised. Already the Government has brought in one reform whereby unemployed men over 60 can claim the higher supplementary benefit rate providing they take their names off the unemployment register. So far 10,000 claimants have opted for this.

These unregistered unemployed claimants total 330,000 in 1979 and the provisional estimates for 1980 suggest a similar number. Overall, therefore, the number of unemployed who do not appear in the official statistics is almost half a million — putting the true level of unemployment at around 3½ million. This figure is below the TUC's estimate but it does mean that for each six people registered as unemployed there is a seventh person who is jobless and is seeking work. In addition, 550,000 workers are kept from joining the dole queue by one or other of the Government's employment and training measures.

Part of this week's Commons debate has concerned itself with what policies are likely to increase the numbers in work. Mrs Thatcher stresses now — although she did not when in opposition — that demographic changes are making the unemployment position worse. Over the next five years the labour force will grow by almost 700,000, and so in today's debate Labour needs to emphasize how long it will take to regain full employment. More and more it looks like a programme for two Parliaments.

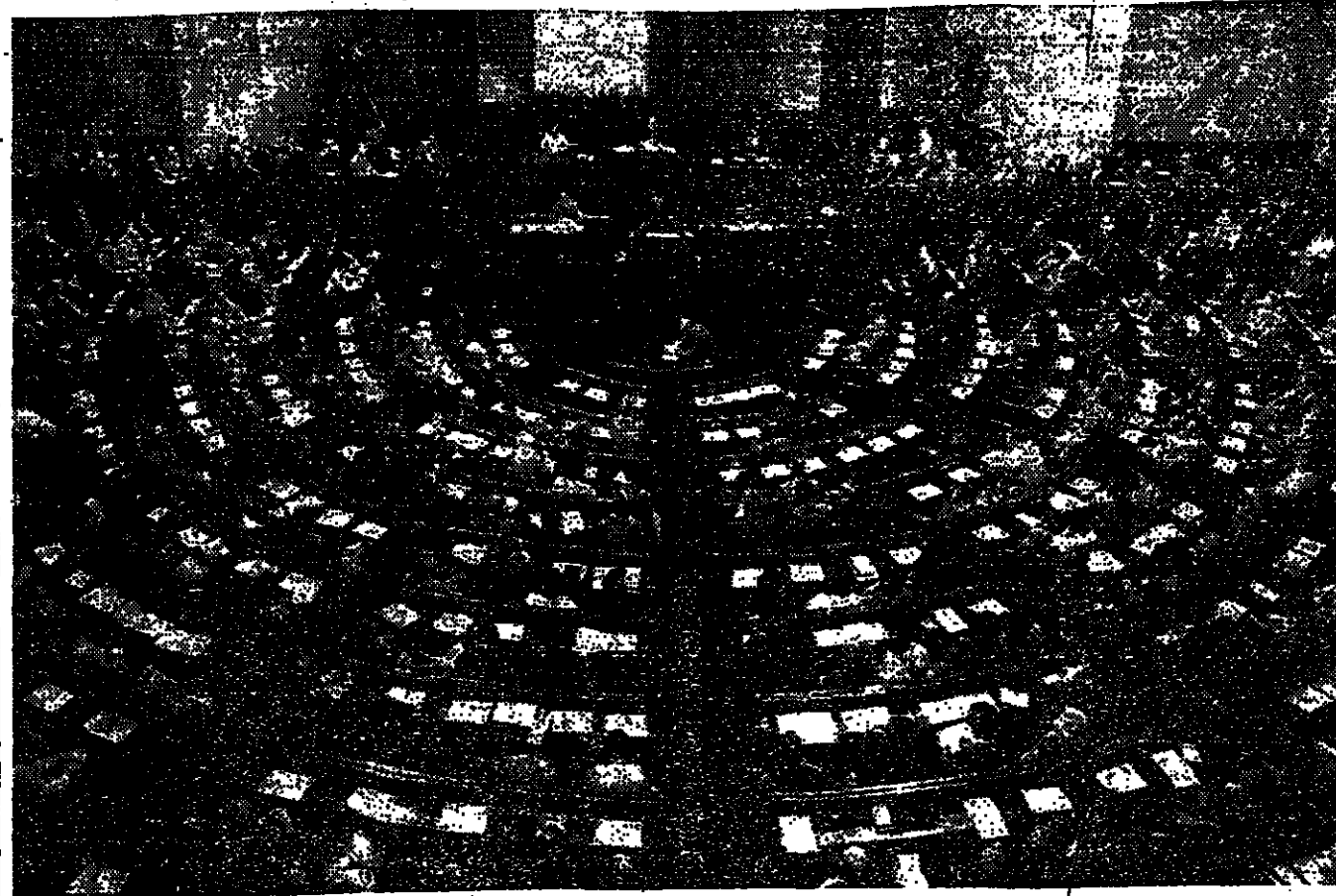
If that is so, it is important to consider as well how to secure more equitably the cost of unemployment. If the Prime Minister is right in her assertion that people have been conscripted into the army of the unemployed in order to wage the battle against inflation, it is crucial that we treat unemployed claimants fairly in the benefit system. That is not the case at present.

National Insurance unemployment benefit lasts for up to 12 months and is paid at a much lower level than most other insurance rates. Similarly, unemployed claimants dependent on supplementary benefit never qualify for the higher rate of supplementary benefit, and the long-term supplementary benefit rate for a married couple is 25 per cent above the ordinary rate.

If this week's outrage leads to nothing else it will have been a good well spent if a general agreement is formed on the need to spread the cost of unemployment more fairly. A better deal for unemployed claimants will mean that those of us lucky enough to be in work will have to foot the bill.

The author is Labour MP for Birkenhead.

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The Sejm in session: slavish loyalty is again the fashion

## Poland: back to the rubberstamp

Roger Boyes reports from the Warsaw Parliament

Statistics have become a substitute for facts since martial law was imposed in Poland, so it was no surprise to hear that two days of debate in the Sejm (Parliament) had produced more than half a million words, and no surprise either that someone was counting.

Probably the most telling, the most damning of these words came late on Monday night when a flushed deputy stood up and shouted at the liberal-minded Karol Malczuk: "How dare you lecture our leader! What gives you the right to criticize him?"

Slavish loyalty is back in fashion in the Sejm. Out of 460 deputies only five abstained and one voted against the martial law decrees this week — even though military rule had been proclaimed, unconstitutionally, without Sejm approval.

Talk to one of the deputies in the Communist Party faction (51 per cent of the chamber), a member of the reconstituted Roman Catholic Pax faction, or one from the "satellite" parties, the Democratic and Peasants parties, and one receives the same bland stare: nothing has changed under martial law, we are still the vital, critical organ that we were seven weeks ago.

Talk to one of the five abstainers and the impression is different: they are mourning for a lost opportunity, the loss of a chamber that could have channelled public discontent to the Government, playing a moderating role, interpreting the Government to the people and modifying Politburo initiatives.

That role, though it sounds hopelessly ambitious to other East European parliaments, was brought up on the fact that the Politburo makes decisions and Parliaments ratifies them without demur, was achieved in the Poland of Solidarity.

Slowly, Poles who had lost faith in the party, their bureaucrats, shopkeepers and their currency were beginning to believe in the Sejm. Though dominated by members of the Communist Party and though clearly not democratic in a western sense — no free elections — it had developed democratic instincts setting strictly defined limits on the power of the party.

Now, under martial law, the party has little power to limit and it is difficult to see how the Sejm can be anything more than a polite, uncritical legitimiser of policies shaped by the military council.

Yet the old critical Sejm could be of greater service to the military leadership. The better to learn of resistance to autocratic legislation in Parliament, where deputies have immunity from prosecution, than wait for that resistance to spill over in the streets.

In the six months before martial law was imposed, the Sejm had changed the focus of proposed legislation, deleted what it saw as repressive clauses and actively spoke out in favour of solidarity, or at least its moderate faction. Yet when Mr Malczuk, who is not affiliated to any party, spoke of the nonsense of the Sejm, there was now "public consultation" over food prices — there is no way of consulting anybody as all unions are suspended — he was greeted with hoots of derision.

Solidarity was mentioned only in combination with the words "extremism" and "anarchism". The Sejm's collective memory appeared to have been wiped clean in the past weeks of suspension.

The Military Council partly blamed Parliament for having imposed martial law in the first place. The Government, said General Jaruzelski, had repeatedly called for an emergency powers bill that would, if necessary, suspend the right to strike. But Sejm deputies, in sympathy with Solidarity's aims, had said there was no room in the legislative programme for such a bill or had tried to temper it.

The relative independence of the Sejm which in theory (that is constitutionally) has wide-ranging powers — was rooted in two main factors. First, under the leadership of Mr Edward Gierlek, the potential independence of the chamber was misjudged.

"He thought we were sheep," a Pax deputy said. "But in fact we were simply humans in sheepskin coats." At the first meeting after the toppling of Mr Gierlek these deputies showed their independence by passing a motion discreetly welcoming Solidarity.

This was followed by rejection of the Government's economic reform proposals. Second, the Sejm's power was directly proportional to the erosion of party influence in the country. The party had shown itself to be out of touch with national feelings and the Sejm steered the party's leadership away from a Gomulka or Gierlek-like fate by showing what would be unacceptable to ordinary Poles.

Neither of these factors has disappeared. The Sejm still has wide theoretical powers and the party is still out of touch with the needs of real Poles: it could thus be of use to the generals — if only it were given the chance.

the people want, they have a perfect cross-party issue to put to referendum. But it is hardly necessary. The signs of public opinion already exist to be read, from the protests of ordinary women all over the country against precisely the kind of shops which the Government now proposes to let councils license to the welcome of intellectuals tortuous conversion of the women's libbers who have done as much as anyone to promote the kind of society without restraints which has given birth to the rape culture but who now unite against rape.

Sophisticated and liberal people will counsel Mr Thatcher not to respond to populist fervour. Popular opinion, however, has its rights. One of them is to expect the government as best it can to protect the person of every citizen.

This is a problem that will not be wished away by legal and penal adjustments to deal with crimes already committed. We have at least to acknowledge that the rise of this particular crime is the sign of a degenerate society and to ask how we have come to sink so low.

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Dr Morley has been associated with the Tropical Child Health Unit for the past 15 years. The unit is part of the Institute of Child Health, the medical school of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Dr Morley, who worked principally in Nigeria in the 1950s and 1960s, is the author of various studies of which the best known is *Pediatric Priorities in the Developing World*. This has been reprinted six times and published in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Indonesian as well as English and is being translated into Arabic.

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Exit right? Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Tories on the Greater London Council, is widely believed to be seeking a dignified retreat from the burdens of office after some lacklustre performances against Ken Livingstone and the red menace at County Hall. As one of his colleagues remarked in the subsidized bar near the council chamber the other day, "only Horace could have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory on the London fares issue."

His as yet unannounced departure explains the sudden amercion among Sir Horace's front-bench colleagues and confusion over which star to attach themselves to.

## Turning Land's End into Eldorado

"I certainly didn't buy it so that I could be called the Fifteenth Master of Land's End," says David Goldstone, the Welsh-born solicitor and property millionaire who last week pipped the National Trust to the post — or rather the outpost — by paying more than £2m for Britain's most famous piece of coastline.

Land's End came on to the market last summer with a minimum price tag of £1.75m after being in the ownership of the National Trust for more than three centuries.

Rumours that a foreigner might buy it sparked off fears that it would be closed to the public. A member of the House of Lords speculated that it might be cut off and towed away. A sale to a commercial developer — one of the big brewery chains was thought to be interested — conjured up the horrifying prospect of fish and chips and fun fairs. The National Trust wanted to buy it for the nation but was refused government funds to help. Its eleventh hour bid of £1.25m was completely outgunned by the £2.25m paid last week by David Goldstone.

Mr Goldstone is somewhat of a specialist in his assessment. "Land's End is a major tourist attraction but at the moment it is not a very attractive attraction. It is easy, however, to see how it could, without any massive redevelopment, offer greatly improved facilities for visitors," Mr Goldstone, the conservationist will be keen to know, is not planning a concrete jungle on our most westerly point. He does, however, think that Land's End is a good financial proposition indeed and that of money he is prepared to spend — perhaps as much as £3.5m in total over the next few years with the aid of grants — has amazed rivals like the National Trust who would not necessarily seek to justify their bid in commercial terms.

The National Trust, not surprisingly, saw itself as the most appropriate owner of the Land's End Estate. Perhaps there is something vaguely distasteful about a national land mark belonging to one individual, even if it is a public figure. Nor the less, Land's End needs money spent on it.

"I am not making a philanthropic gesture," says Mr Goldstone, who besides his large property interests is chairman of one publicly quoted property company, Regalian. He is also a former chairman of Cardiff City Football Club. "Land's End attracts around a million visitors a year. It is said that we go there twice in a lifetime. Once when we are children and once again with our own children."

Looking at the numbers going there and the existing facilities, it was clear that this presented a real opportunity for improvements and a good investment return. I would like to build a new building there as a tourist centre, get rid of some of the existing kiosks and snack bars and make a more cohesive unit.

The Countryside Commission has said publicly that it will make available to the new owner the grants that were offered to the National Trust. News of the purchase appears to have put some down locally, particularly since the new owner is taking a memorial to the late Lifeboatmen should be incorporated in his plans.

Margaret Drummond

Who is most likely to succeed Sir Horace, who has recovered his flame since the Tories took away his official limousine?

Best performer of the Tory bunch, though unfortunately a shade too liberal, is Alan Green-gross. A Jewish businessman who represents Hampshire, Green-gross is an old sparring partner of Livingstone from the days together on Camden Council. Money is also being placed on George Prentiss, the failed Tory candidate for the Richmond (Twickenham) parliamentary nomination and ex-pop star biographer (who is believed to be Livingstone's own favourite), and the Florida Tory deputy leader, Richard Brew.

Michael Horsnell

date revaluation

Mr Brian L. Hill

Because of the increasing number of rape cases, and public anxiety about the way some have been dealt with, the Prime Minister is to discuss the law on rape with Dame Rose Heilbrunn, the High Court judge who chaired an advisory committee on the issue.

Mrs Thatcher does not share the over-intellectualized view that public anxiety has been inflated by the recent concentration of the media on the subject which, as some officials dismissively put it, "sells newspapers".

The Prime Minister recognizes the reality of public anxiety; that ordinary people are worried about the increasing danger.

The figures — speak for themselves. To give one example, known cases of rape in the Metropolitan Police area alone rose from 107 in 1971 to 266 in 1980. What, then, can be done?

It is easier to worry away at the details of legal and police procedure than to tackle the basic question: why is this crime, a kind of psychological murder that can destroy the victim's chances of future happiness, happening increasingly and

how can it be checked? Public comment concentrates on such superficial questions as whether the judge who preferred a fine to a prison sentence in a particular case should be sacked, or whether prison sentences should be mandatory.

In part, rape reflects a rising trend of general violence. Yet it has increased more than violence of other kinds, and it is difficult not to conclude that this is because our present culture encourages it.

Since all effective inhibitions were removed on the sale of pornography in 1959, the publication of material intended to be sexually stimulating, and which as a society with violence has steadily increased — and so have rapes. It flies in the face of commonsense and logical inference to argue, as the Williams Committee on obscenity did, that because the acknowledged increase in

pornography cannot be quantified, no inference can be drawn about its effect in encouraging violent sexual crime.

More deeply still, we live in a culture which is both obsessed by sex but which also regards the sex act as fundamentally trivial. In such an atmosphere, and encouraged by such material, men of violent inclination or without self-control take what they want by force, persuading themselves that as the sex act is widely regarded as so trivial a matter, it really does not do the victim much harm.

Mrs Thatcher must know that the basically elitist argument which places the unfettered freedom to publish the most violent pornography above the freedom of women not to be put at risk by such material evokes little support among the mass of the people who elected her.

Ronald Butt

## Why we live in a rape culture

But the doctrinaire libertarian will never even say whether, if it could be incontrovertibly established that there is a causal link between violent pornography and rape, he would still prefer the freedom of the press to the safety of the rapists' potential victims.

The stock answer is that this is a hypothetical question, that it need not remain so. The argument is normally vitiated by its emphasis purely on abstract statistics, and on establishing a correlation between different kinds of sexual crime over the period in which pornography has been increasingly available and increasingly hard. For this kind of statistics, nothing can be finally established beyond contradiction.

But there is another possible approach — the systematic and professional investigation of rape cases and their background to establish what part, if any, had been played by pornography in addition to bringing the criminal to the state of mind in which he committed the crime. I do not suppose that such an inquiry will find much favour in the Home Office, which even resisted the present Act against child pornography. Yet that Act has established the principle that the pornographer's freedom is not unconditional.

If by clinical examination a connexion between pornography and violent crime were established, the Government would have no cause to hesitate in legislating against pornography.

Unfortunately, far from contemplating such legislation to prohibit specified categories of pornography (particularly those of a sadomasochistic sort), the Government is actually on the brink of legislating to licence sex shops.

Here, indeed, is a licence to print money. As "Britain's highest paid company chairman", the owner of a sex shop chain told Mr Patrick Sergeant, City Editor of the *Evening Mail*, the other day: "Sex will be the growth industry of the eighties, just as betting shops were in the seventies. Councils will be able to licence sex shops this year... I'm sitting on a gold mine." I dare say he is, and Mrs Thatcher has been warned of the likely consequences of the legislation, which reaches its report stage next week.

Mr Whitelaw is plainly unwilling to take the Home Office by the scruff of its neck. Knock some of the libertarian nonsense out of it and bring it into touch with reality. Perhaps Mrs Thatcher can remind him that it was not this elite but the mass of the people who put them in power. If they have any doubt about what the mass of

the people want, they have a perfect cross-party issue to put to referendum. But it is hardly necessary. The signs of public opinion already exist to be read, from the protests of ordinary women all over the country against precisely the kind of shops which the Government now proposes to let councils license to the welcome of intellectuals tortuous conversion of the women's libbers who have done as much as anyone to promote the kind of society without restraints which has given birth to the rape culture but who now unite against rape.

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## Many happy returns — musically

Sir William Walton, the elder statesman of British music, has just completed his first major original work for 10 years in time to mark his eightieth birthday in March — an event which will be celebrated by a number of concerts throughout the world.

The piece, *Prologo e Fantasia*, was commissioned by Mstislav Rostropovich who will conduct its premiere with the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington in London next month.

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Yesterday Lady Walton told me by telephone: "William has always taken a long time to write music and now a great deal of physical effort is involved. His eyes are not good, though he does not complain about his health. William is never terribly pleased with his work because he always wants to do better, like any artist. But I am sure it is good."

The English winter prevents Sir William and Lady Walton from leaving the island, where they have lived for 30 years, to attend the premiere (a recording will be sent to them). But they will travel to England in March 25 in time for his birthday four days later and stay for two weeks at the Savoy Hotel.

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## THE TIMES' DIARY

The steady anglicization of Jersey, which has taken place since the Second World War, looks set to conquer a final bastion. The authorities have proposed to change the name of the island from Jersey to Jersy, which is the name used by the islanders in French.

Surprisingly to most visitors, to whom the Channel Islands seem as English-speaking as the Isle of Wight, French is still the official language of Jersey, and theoretically, has equal status with English in Guernsey. In practice French survives even

and answer questions such as "who is the head waiter at Annabel's?"

So packed was the evening, however, that their delights and assorted revellers at £22 per head, that even the judges, among them Stirling Moss and Miss World, Michael Aspel, found it difficult to see or hear the contestants. Indeed Diana Dors found the struggle so unequal she resigned her post halfway through.

It was all a far cry from the deb's mother's day when large guests would have dropped at the thought of the whole affair being sponsored by a Japanese hi-fi firm. The evening clearly appeared too much for Michael Aspel who was too ill to appear

for his morning show on Capital Radio.

Have a cuppa

Advertising people and chimpanzees will gather at the Waldorf Hotel today to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first PG Tips commercial. Peter Sellers provided the first voice-over for a tea drinking chimp, screened on Christmas Day, 1956. But the story I like is of a later commercial featuring a Clive Jenkins chimpanzee making references to the TUC (Tea, you see). It seems that the Independent Television Companies Association — TV's advertising standards watchdog — stepped in and gave warning that trade unions could not be made to look like "a bunch of monkeys". But Vic

Feather, general secretary of the TUC at the time, entirely disagreed with this view when approached and filming went ahead as planned.

Medical prize

Dr David Morley of the Tropical Child Health Unit, Guilford Street, London, has been awarded the King Faisal International Prize this year for "distinguished work in the field of medicine". The announcement of the award by the prize selection committee in Riyadh cites Dr Morley's research studies on "the health of infants in tropical regions and developing countries." The prize

is worth 200,000 Saudi rials (about £31,000).

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date revaluation

Mr Brian L. Hill





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## KILLING THE RAILWAY

Labour's National Executive and the TUC General Council yesterday declared themselves in favour of running down the railways. To put it like that risks being tied to the track by Mr Benn as an enemy of the people, but it is the logic of the advice to British Rail to pay the striking Aslef men, without securing the productivity that is at the heart of the dispute. We must give Labour and TUC the credit for being able to see beyond their noses; they must know that if British Rail simply pays up it will jeopardize the prospect of substantial investment in electrification from this Government. Mr Sidney Weighall the general secretary of the NUR, which has agreed the productivity, sees this very clearly, but he knows and cares more about railways than his TUC colleagues whose Labour's reflex politicians have long ago given up pretending to take a national view.

The damage being done is considerable. The railways are carrying only about half their normal load of coal and iron. Freightliner business, which is quickly vulnerable to road competition, is down by 80 per cent. Parcels, which were coming into surplus this year for the first time since the 1960s have been smashed back into loss. The financial costs of the strike are estimated at £45 million up to today, with an extra £14 million a week henceforward. Less quantifiable but equally worrying are the customers who insist on a reliable service and may now be lost forever.

Given the precariousness of British Rail's basic finances, losses of that order cannot easily be sustained for long. Yet the issues of productivity and efficient use of manpower which are at stake here are fundamental. They involve the future viability of the railways and the British Railways Board is correct to insist on a solution. After decades of slack management the Board has recently grasped the productivity nettle. Last year 8,000 staff, including 1,200 drivers, were shed, all voluntary or by natural wastage. So British Rail was comfortably on course towards the reduction of 38,000 over five years which is part of the deal with Government in return for investment funds for electrification.

Flexible rostering, which is common practice in most

European countries, is the most important of the next steps necessary to sustain the productivity drive. It would increase by 10 per cent the number of productive hours worked. It was the prerequisite for reducing the railwaymen's weekly working hours this year from 40 to 39. It will be of benefit to everyone who works on or uses the railways because it will make the railways more efficient and secure. It does, however, involve Aslef members working harder, and eventually some 4,000 of them losing their jobs. These latter redundancies might be negotiable in another situation — over half the Aslef drivers are over 50 and the scope for generous early retirement is considerable. But Aslef is a tiny union with barely 20,000 members. It is a threatened species; its absolute numbers have declined with the industry and its craft differentials have been eroded by technological change.

In fact there is no justification for Aslef's continuance; it has a colourful and proud history but in a rational world, or any other advanced industrial country, it would have merged with the NUR and the union would have worked with management to create an efficient future for their industry. Instead Aslef remains an uncomfortable legacy, its executive strongly influenced by Communists, insisting that British Rail share its own mislaid attitude to industrial progress. Whatever the arguments about every final detail of last year's agreement on rostering, there is little doubt that Aslef have broken the spirit and understanding on which it was made. As Mr Sidney Weighall the courageous General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen wrote recently in the NUR News: "I must make it clear that the serious situation which has now been reached whereby the Board have decided not to implement the 39 hour week and not to pay the 3 per cent increase for locomotive staff, has been brought about entirely by the stance adopted by Aslef."

The British Rail Board has so far played the dispute long. This is irritating for travellers who see no end to their weekly discomfort, but is understandable. At the beginning it was essential not to precipitate a total shutdown at a time when a coal strike remained a distinct possibility.

It was also essential to ensure that the NUR would approve the British Rail stand, as it did last week's suspension of Sunday payments. Even now, a month into the dispute, the Aslef drivers are only just beginning to feel the impact on their pay packets of losing on average around £35 a week. It might be wise to let this measured approach run a little longer while still pressing the issue to binding arbitration. Aslef's cynical insistence that it would go to arbitration only if it reserved the right to refuse an unfavourable judgment will have educated the public, if they need further education, on the nature of the animal involved here.

Looking ahead, the Arbitration and Conciliation Advisory Service will remain actively involved and may once again discover a magic formula to end the dispute. But if that were to involve a well-meaning fudging of the basic productivity issue it would not be in the long term interest of the railways or the public.

The point will come, and it cannot be long ahead, when British Rail will have to decide whether to raise the stakes in practical terms that would mean suspending the 1919 agreement for a guaranteed working week for footplate staff. However, political prudence suggests that the NUR should not be driven into common cause with Aslef and so Mr Weighall's men should be offered payment providing they turn up to work. Either way Aslef would certainly declare a total strike and the railways would close. That would push the railways even further into debt. The Government, which has so far stood well off this dispute, would then need to indicate full support for the board; after all this is a battle about efficiency in a public industry, an issue which is close to Mrs Thatcher's heart and deserves her commitment.

A rail shutdown would hurt customers, both the long-suffering commuter and such industries as electricity generation, where stocks will quickly run down — though for some it may be easier to adjust to no service than to an erratic one. These, too, will have to show patience and support. A more efficient railway system is in the long term interest of everybody: Government, public, and above all the railwaymen themselves.

## MR REAGAN DISTRIBUTES WELFARE

In his first State of the Union address to Congress President Reagan concentrated mostly on domestic issues. These are the questions which will determine the success of his administration. Unless the economy can be brought out of recession the Republicans will fare badly in the mid-term elections in November, neither Mr Reagan nor any other Republican would stand much chance of keeping the presidency in 1984, and the administration's authority in international affairs would be weakened by constant criticism of its economic failures from at home and abroad.

The principal problem is that so long as the budget deficit remains so large it will be difficult to bring interest rates down and there will be the constant danger that any economic revival would soon be snuffed out. Mr Reagan spoke with confidence of reducing the deficit "readily, surely and, in time, completely". But he offered little enough evidence as to how he will manage to do this. Above all, he set his face firmly against raising taxes or cutting defence expenditure, at least until a satisfactory arms reduction agreement is negotiated with the Soviet Union.

The most important proposal he made was to transfer responsibility for a range of

programmes from the federal government to state and local administrations. In principle, there is much to be said for such a strategy of delegation. In a country the size of the United States the dangers of centralization are enormous. It is much better that there should be scope for adapting many welfare programmes to local conditions. But one must also consider how this broad principle is likely to be applied in practice. Will it prove to be an indirect method of cutting back on welfare? All welfare cuts would be much better as part of a deliberate strategy that considered what was needed and could be afforded in relation to the nation's resources, rather than as an undeclared side effect of a change in administration.

Will the already considerable disparities in welfare provision be extended to the point where they become indefensible? And will the financial arrangements be satisfactory? Mr Reagan is proposing that the Federal Government should assume full responsibility for funding the Medicaid programme of health insurance and that the full proceeds from certain excise taxes should be paid into a "grassroots trust fund" which would be divided among the states. This arrangement would last until 1988 when the trust fund would begin to be

phased out and the excise taxes would be turned over to the states.

It is not clear, though, that these methods would be a satisfactory means of relating resources to need. This is always the critical problem for a strategy of decentralization. It is particularly acute in the United States where there are stark geographical differences in wealth and income, and where the incidence of poverty is extremely uneven. Mr Reagan may perhaps have been too much influenced by his experience as Governor of California, a rich state that is well equipped to exercise any delegated responsibility that is offered to it.

Experience up to now with revenue sharing schemes between the federal government, the states and local authorities in the United States has been far from encouraging. The arrangements have become immensely complex and they have not been a satisfactory means of channelling money where it is most needed. Mr Reagan will find that he can apply the sound principle of decentralization in acceptable fashion only if he can solve this problem. In any case, a scheme of this magnitude cannot be brought into operation soon enough to help Mr Reagan in the immediate necessity to cut the budget deficit.

stantially reduced rate charges for larger, older and labour-intensive factories and for older steelworks, and slightly reduced charges for newer steelworks, local shops and older offices in some cities.

While it would have been preferable to include dwellings in the 1983 Scottish revaluation, there is a greater urgency to deal with commercial and industrial property since movements in values have been more pronounced in this sector. In any event, current law provides for an adjustment to the valuations on residences broadly in line with the increases revealed in the non-domestic sector.

Scottish business occupiers will, however, be put in a more fortunate position than their counterparts in England and

Wales. Equity demands that the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales should urgently make an announcement that a revaluation of non-domestic property south of the border should be carried out at an early date, especially since the last exercise was carried out in 1973 compared with 1978 in Scotland. Such a statement will very materially assist many commercial and industrial ratepayers, particularly in the present climate of economic recession.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN L. HILL,  
Secretary,  
The Rating and Valuation Association,  
115 Ebury Street,  
Belgrave, SW1,  
January 21.

## Home buying finance

From Mr M. R. Weale

Sir, While agreeing with Chris Pond (January 23) that action is needed on housing one must question some of the solutions he is recommending. To tax people on the monetary capital gains on their home, which could only be done when they moved, would have the effect mainly of stopping them moving. People with expanding families would be unable to trade up and elderly and retired people could not afford to trade down.

Non-renewable mortgage interest relief would equally stop moving. Perhaps it would be more sensible to restrict tax relief to the benefit of which increases with higher rates of inflation and associated higher interest rates to the standard rate, but to remove the £25,000 upper limit. To remove relief entirely would put a large burden on those who can at least afford to pay the first time buyers who, although they tend to buy the cheaper houses, tend to have the larger mortgages.

But it is on the question of council housing that a radical new approach is needed. Subsidies to council housing have risen from £25m in 1970 to £2,115m in 1979 and supervision/maintenance alone cost almost as much as the rent received. Council housing is expensive and divides the nation into those who have a stake in the future and those who do not.

While we must recognise that there will always be a need for some municipally-owned housing and that the obligation on councils to house the genuinely homeless must remain this need can hardly extend to most of the 30 million council population living in council houses. Giving the houses away would have only cost £268m in 1980: to convert most tenancy agreements into mortgages at a higher weekly payment would reduce this.

Of course some people would do better off as tenants than others, but we should be considering ways of cutting our losses and not worry too much that such a solution would not be much more fair than the current situation. The replacement of rent allowances by mortgage allowances depending on incomes would surely be the final step needed to bring ownership within the reach of all.

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. WEALE,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
University of Cambridge,  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge,  
January 25.

## Corporation tax

From Professor A. R. Prest

Sir, Mr Basil de Ferranti and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams plead (January 16) for the abolition of corporation tax and its replacement by a combination of taxing dividends to personal income tax and of an increase (percentage unspecified) of VAT.

The main grounds for their proposal seem to be the assumption that in general corporation tax is both fully and quickly passed forward. What is the evidence for such a clear-cut verdict? One need not agree with everything else in the recent Green Paper (Cmd 8456) to accept its statement (paragraph 4.9) that "researchers have come up with widely varying estimates" of the extent and speed of such passing forward.

The fallback argument is that in any residual cases where corporation tax is not fully passed forward its abolition would not leave a tax loophole because of the existence of capital gains tax. But CGT is levied at a lower rate than corporation tax and may be deferred for many years, perhaps indefinitely. So CGT is in no sense an adequate substitute.

No reference whatever is made to the consequences of the abolition of corporation tax here but not, say, in the USA for the UK's tax revenue from the UK to the US. Such mundane matters may be of no concern to your correspondents; it is unlikely that the UK Treasury would take that view.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. PREST,  
Professor of Economics,  
The London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2  
January 18.

## A beast in view

From Mr A. J. Heward Rees

Sir, The new joint armorial bearings for the Prince and Princess of Wales illustrated in your issue of January 20 do not contain four Welsh dragons" as Alan Hamilton describes them: not even as supporters.

The tiny interior shield (known as an "inescutcheon of pretence") which is usually found in Prince Charles's arms features four counterchanged leopards — otherwise "lions passant guardant". These were borne by princely members of the Royal House of Gwynedd, including the tragic Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, the seven-hundredth anniversary of whose slaying occurred this year. (The intention is to emphasize a somewhat tenuous blood link with the Prince, no doubt.) The badge underneath, consisting of three feathers and motto, is of course of continental origin.

There be no dragons....  
I remain, yours faithfully,  
A. J. HEWARD REES,  
Neuadd Seiriol,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd,  
January 20.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Party strategy in an economic crisis

From Mr Jim Lester, MP for Beeston (Conservative)

Sir, What a pity Mr Hamilton's open letter (January 26) should be so unnecessarily divisive.

If the economic upturn is as rosy as he maintains, there would seem to be little risk in the Government declaring an interim dividend. The Treasury's own estimate of growth is only 1 per cent next year. If, on the other hand, it is not so rosy, the case for a mildly expansionist Budget is reinforced.

There are as many budget plans as there are MPs but, apart from the two entrenched extremes, the great majority of Tories are looking for a moderate expansion. A figure of £3bn is canvassed, with concessions centred on industrial costs and expenditure on the infrastructure. Nobody is so naive as to suppose that this will solve the unemployment problem. Hardly anyone believes it will produce Mr Hamilton's "inevitable surge of inflation".

The country has earned this relaxation and we have reached the stage when we can and should undertake it. The coming Budget provides the opportunity both to inject the degree of encouragement industry needs and to absorb without strain, and also to have a beneficial effect on the unity of the party. Yours faithfully,  
JIM LESTER,  
House of Commons,  
January 27.

From Mr C. H. F. Blake

Sir, May a loyal Tory of even less importance than the disloyal Mr Glegg crave some space to say how profoundly mistaken I believe him to be in saying (feature, January 21) that the SDP-Liberal Alliance offers at least "the possibility of tackling the country's endemic problems"?

This country has indeed been declining economically, especially for more than 35 years and will continue to do so until everyone realizes that life is nasty, brutish and short, that it does not provide anything for nothing, and that duties are more important than rights. I have yet to read of an Alliance politician speaking in this vein. Mrs Thatcher may humbly opinion the first prime minister since Churchill with the political courage necessary to proclaim these simple truths and to use them in tackling our problems. One has only to read the letter from the Liberal, Mr Pick, in your issue of January 21, to realize that the so-called Alliance has little chance of providing the unity and the will necessary for the kind of leadership which our situation demands. Your leading article on the same page, where you criticize Mr Reagan and other

heads of government for wanting the best of all worlds should also serve to warn us against the facile panaceas with which we are continually regaled by politicians of all parties.

Mrs Thatcher and her immediate colleagues have no panaceas to offer except hard work, enterprise and the 1982 equivalent of blood, toil, tears and sweat. They know that the "best of all worlds" is an illusion. I believe the country as a whole will also come to realize this in time for the next election, and I suspect that a number of people including the miners, realize it already.

Yours faithfully,  
C. H. F. BLAKE,  
23 Downlease,  
Bristol,  
January 22.

From Mr Henry Bellingham

Sir, In his recent article in *The Times* (January 21) Mr John Grigg explains why he quit the Tories for the SDP. He regrets that hardly any dissatisfied Tories have defected to the SDP, and urges them to follow his example. He explains that the SDP's failure to attract such people lies largely in the basic loyalty of most Tory activists. This may well be a partial explanation, but the main reason is the SDP's abject failure to emerge as a broadly-based centre party capable of preying on the camps of both the two main parties.

North-West Norfolk is the only Tory Parliamentary seat to have gone over to the SDP and a number of observers expected it to be in the vanguard of a mass exodus of party workers to the SDP. However, out of a total of more than 1,000 voluntary workers in the constituency we have lost scarcely any to the SDP. One does not have to look too far to find an explanation for this state of affairs.

Lord Whaddon, who was Labour MP for King's Lynn in the 1960s, recently defected to the SDP; he felt he could join it because it was a "revamped mark II Labour Party". The agent for the Liberal/SDP candidates in the forthcoming local government by-election in King's Lynn is urging people to support the "renewed socialist party".

Finally, few Tories in this part of the world will quickly forget the remarks of Bill Rodgers at the SDP launch: "We are not a centre party, but are left of centre".

Yours sincerely,  
HENRY BELLINGHAM,  
North West Norfolk  
Conservative Association,  
Greenland Fishery,  
Bridge Street,  
King's Lynn,  
January 22.

## Radioactive waste disposal

From Dr A. E. Hughes and others

Sir, Your Science Editor ("Nuclear waste conflict", January 25) states that uncertainty about the stability of glass (to be used in the disposal of radioactive waste) has been recently voiced in *Nature* by a team from Harwell and implies that this has caused the Government to postpone any scheme for disposing of waste underground.

This is not true. The purpose of our paper in *Nature* was to discuss radiation effects and their influence on the leach rate of vitrified highly radioactive waste. We conclude that radiation effects will not cause a significant increase in leach rate over that of unirradiated glass in practical repository situations.

The leach rate of the glass is only one of the factors which control the release of radioactivity to the environment. The flow rate of water through any repository, the solubility of chemicals in the water, and the properties of the surrounding rocks would be just as important: this is confirmed in studies by the Institute of Geological Sciences and the National Radiological Protection Board. Our paper points out that under the conditions to be expected in an actual repository the release of elements from the glass by dissolution is sufficiently low that confidence in the suitability of glasses is reinforced.

The uncertainty expressed in the last paragraph of our paper refers not to doubts about the acceptability of glass as a waste medium, but to the precise values of the parameters to use in quantitative calculations of release rate.

Your Science Editor also raises the question of glass developing cracks at high temperatures underground. It is proposed to store vitrified waste for a period in a monitored environment which permits the heat emission associated with radioactive decay to decrease to low levels. This avoids the possibility of generating high temperatures in repository.

Yours faithfully,  
A. E. HUGHES,  
W. G. BURNS,  
J. A. C. MARPLES,  
R. S. NELSON,  
A. M. STONEHAM,  
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Laboratory,  
Harwell,  
January 26.

## Cold reception

From Miss Irene Puffe

Sir, Mary Hannah (letter, January 21) should ask each child, at the beginning of the autumn term, to bring to school one clothes peg, clearly marked with the name of the child. These pegs should be kept in a box in an easily accessible place until the start of the "wellies" season. When required, the child finds its own peg, and clips wellies together as soon as the boots are taken off.

As an infants' teacher this tip has saved much patience fraying and infant panic, and really does stop wellies walking. Incidentally, it also provides a little extra lesson in name recognition.

Yours faithfully,  
I. M. PUFFE,  
Keston Cottage,  
St Leonard's Street,  
West Malling,  
Kent,  
January 25.

## In office

From Mr Gordon Bowker

Sir, It seems wholly in character for Stanley Baldwin to have called power "office" (letter, January 23).

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON BOWKER,  
4, Hillgate Place,  
Kensington, W8,  
January 23.

## British Telecom

From Mr Alan M. Pardoe

Sir, Mr Findlay (January 21) is indeed fortunate in being able to "talk to anyone in the world" by a "clear and simple method" of telephoning. In these villages we have the greatest difficulty in just getting a dialling tone.

The chairman of British Telecom (January 19) says that "over the last 12 months, in particular, service has greatly improved"; not here it hasn't! The last year has been the worst we've had. But perhaps he was thinking of the amount of switching the engineers have to do: our local exchange is in a field and a new concrete drive has been laid, presumably because the frequent visits by the engineers were wearing the old one out.

Even the operators (when I can speak to one) despair when I report that Ridgeway Cross is faulty again.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN M. PARDOE,  
Half Acre,  
Marthon,  
Worcestershire,  
January 21.

## Poste restante?

From Mr J. F. Morris

Sir, I note with interest that on February 10 the Post Office will issue a new set of stamps commemorating Charles Darwin. Is it of significance that the new 15p stamp for first class postage depicts two tortoises?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JAMES F. MORRIS,  
16A Wedderburn Road, NW3,  
January 19.

## Rate revaluation

From Mr Brian L. Hill

Sir, The Secretary of State for Scotland has recently announced that a rating revaluation of non-domestic property will take place in 1983 north of the border. This statement is warmly welcomed. The assessments under any form of taxation become increasingly unfair and arbitrary if they are not regularly and frequently updated. Without such a reassessment some commercial and industrial ratepayers, particularly those operating small businesses, will be paying more rates than they should.

The recent Green Paper on Alternatives to Domestic Rates identified that a non-domestic revaluation would result in sub-



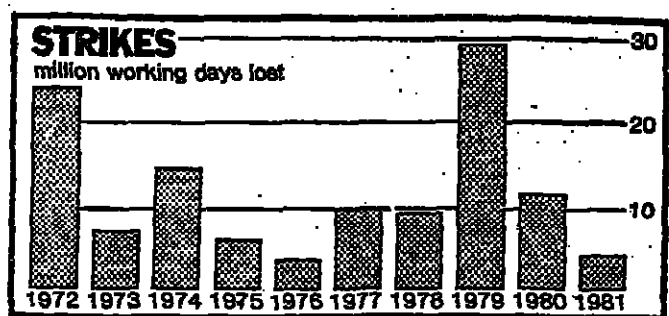


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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Fewer strikes last year



The number of working days lost through strikes last year was 4.2 million, the Employment Department said yesterday. This is less than a third of the 13 million average over the previous decade and, apart from 1976 when only 3.3 million days were lost, represents the lowest yearly total since 1967. The number of strikes in 1981 is provisionally put at 1,280, down from 1,330 in 1980 and the lowest recorded since 1941. The Civil Service dispute alone accounted for a quarter of the days lost. A miners' strike and four stoppages in the car industry accounted for a further 15 per cent.

## Romania to seek aid

Romania is expected shortly to seek the aid of its western bankers in restructuring its debt. Bankers in West Germany believe that the authorities in Bucharest are at present working with representatives of the International Monetary Fund on a declaration of intentions that could be published either this week or next. The bankers stress that Romania is unlikely to follow Poland's example and seek a thorough-going rescheduling of its debts. But it is thought to want a partial restructuring to eliminate a bulge in repayments due over the next few months.

## Greek oil takeover

Greece's Socialist Government has announced its decision to begin talks with Exxon Corporation for the transfer of its Salomika oil refinery and related petrochemical industries which are to be placed under the control of the Greek state. Mr Sakis Peponis, the Minister of Industry, who claimed that the American owners had "responded willingly" to the Government's request said this takeover would not set a precedent for government policy towards other oil refineries.

## Tobacco price rise

Gallaher, Britain's second largest tobacco manufacturer whose leading brands are Benson and Hedges and Silk Cut, is raising all its prices on February 8 with cigarettes increasing by 2p for a packet of 20. This is in line with increases already announced — also applying from February 8 — Imperial Tobacco, which is the largest manufacturer. Other manufacturers are expected to come into line before the Budget.

## W German surplus

West Germany turned in a record surplus of DM4,900m on its current account balance of payments last month, according to provisional figures released by the Federal Statistics Office. The countries' trade balance was also in surplus to the tune of DM5,100m after DM3,900m in November and October's DM5,900m surplus.

Japan's current account surplus in the fiscal year 1982, from April, will probably be \$3,500m.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Reflections on the Union

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 588.9 unchanged  
FT 100 64.25 up 0.45  
FT all-share 326.42 up 0.89  
Bargains 1,171

In an easier market after the previous day's rally a bearish view on interest rates from the senior managing director of Union Discount held equities back leaving the market which closed at 588.9 after being up 3.8 at 1pm.

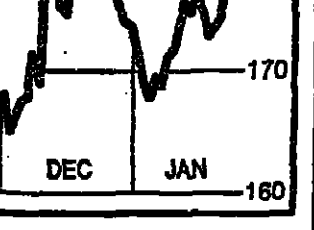
The gilt market reflected President Reagan's State of the Union address with long 8 1/2 down at the close and short dates closing unchanged.

Glaxo fell more sharply than other leading stocks, dropping 10p to 470p after adverse press comment. Elsewhere, leading industrials ended mixed, with BAT down 2p to 385p, GUS up 2p to 505p and Lucas 1p to 223p.

Buildings were in demand, and there were a number of notable gains. BPI Industries improved 18p to 364p, Rugby was up 2p to 90p, and Redland was up 8p to 187p.

## COMMODITIES

● Buoyed by reports of a poor Soviet beet crop and by agreement between the International Sugar Agreement and the European Community on cane prices, sugar held its recent gains. March contract rose by almost 22 to £180.325 a tonne.



● In a tight technical market, cash tin traded at more than £8,800 a tonne, a record, before ending the day at £8,772.50. The backwardation widened further, three months tin fetching £8,030.50, as speculators tried to cover their positions ahead of meeting obligations due at the beginning of February.

## TODAY

● Energy trends  
Salesman of the year presentation, London.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong closed  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow-Jones  
7,926.55 rose 63.15

## CURRENCIES

● The dollar, dear initially on interest rate considerations, rallied in the afternoon. The pound touched \$1.8810 before falling back. It gained ground against continental currencies.

## MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates eased slightly in response to lower dollar rates. The Bank again bought bills at 13 1/2 per cent.  
Domestic rates:  
Base rates 14%  
3-month interbank 14 7/16-14%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3-month dollar 14 1/4-15  
3-month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2  
3-month Fr.F. 15 13/16-15 1/16

## Edwardes sees BL on road to recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Loss-making British Leyland is firmly set on the road to recovery, will make a trading profit in 1983 and from then onwards will need no further injections of taxpayers' money.

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman, told MPs yesterday. Delivering the most optimistic set of forecasts since taking over at the ailing motor group, Sir Michael disclosed to the Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade that the company had completed negotiations this week for a series of private sector bank loans totalling £277m.

The money, which will supplement the £900m of state funds pumped in by the Government for 1981 and 1982 and will help to pay for BL's re-equipment and new model programmes over the next two years, reflected the growing confidence of the banks for the company's recovery strategy.

The latest loans, — among the largest to be negotiated by BL — are with a group of six United Kingdom and four North American banks. They are for repayment over the next 8 to 10 years and the banks have not insisted on United Kingdom Government guarantees. Sir Michael said the deal had been struck at "very competitive" interest rates.

He added that redundancies already announced affecting 5,000 cars group workers and 4,100 in the truck division which are to be implemented this year would reduce the United Kingdom workforce to about 87,000 and bring to an end the heavy erosion of the company. "The over-manning in our business will no longer exist at the end of this year and we will then be dealing with straight market forces."

Recruitment of new workers could begin as new models were produced, particularly the LM10 saloon in 1983. This year, a total of 10 new cars and Land Rover models would be introduced.

Sir Michael, making his last appearance at the select committee before his contract with BL expires at the end of the year, said the company would need all the £290m and a further £150m of state cash for 1983-85 which had yet to be approved. But he was successful in breaking even, the cash



Sir Michael: optimistic mood

needs from Government showed "a heavily diminishing burden on the taxpayer."

He added: "In 1983 we will be free-standing."

The one big concern in the company is the continuing loss being made by the troubled truck division. Sir Michael said that a significant increase in performance and productivity in the cars group had reduced the losses of BL Cars in 1981 by £100m but this had been offset by the deficit in commercial vehicles.

BL is sticking to its 1983 break-even forecast although in the 1982 corporate plan, the directors lowered their profit expectations for the 1982-85 period by £300m.

Sir Michael said balancing the books in 1983 would depend on there being no big exchange rate fluctuations and no serious labour disruptions.

Capital spending for 1982-86 is forecast to be £1,439 with "unprecedented" levels

of investment reached this year. This is to be financed by internally generated funds and the bank loans as well as state aid. The company also hopes to raise £15-£20m in the next two years from the sale of fringe activities following the £75m it has realised from disposals in 1980 and 1981.

Sir Michael also praised workers in the cars group for last year's biggest increase in productivity in BL's history. The performance at Longbridge had improved by more than 100 per cent.

Meanwhile, Japan's Suzuki motor company said in Tokyo yesterday it had reached basic agreement with La Rover Santana of Spain to make and sell Suzuki's Jimny, a mini four-wheel drive vehicle.

Industry sources said Suzuki would use the Spanish facility, partly owned by BL, as a springboard into Europe. The Jimny is the best seller of its type in Japan.

## Co-op bank springs £18 surprise charge

By Lorna Bourke

To obtain free banking, holders of the Co-operative Bank's new interest-bearing current accounts will have to maintain an average credit balance of £180 a year to cover the annual flat service charge of £18. This is at the current interest of 10 per cent.

Customers of Barclays and National Westminster have to maintain a minimum credit balance of £50 to qualify for free banking whilst Lloyds and Midland require a minimum balance of £100. Such current accounts do not, at present, pay interest.

Terms of the new Cheque and Save scheme from First Co-operative, the finance house subsidiary of the Co-op Bank, were announced yesterday.

Interest will be payable on the account, calculated on a daily basis from the published notional interest rate. There will be a deduction from this interest of £1.50 a month or £4.50 a quarter as a service charge to cover the cost of processing the cheques. The current notional interest rate is 10 per cent.

The £1.50 a month service charge is a flat rate and remains the same irrespective of the number of cheques written.

When Co-op announced the new interest-bearing account before Christmas, it was talking in terms of charging 18 to 20p for each cheque, and the flat charge comes as a surprise.

The other High Street banks charge between 15 and 20p for debit entries but maintain that the true cost of processing a cheque is around 50p, the fee Barclays introduced last September for cashing the cheques of its competitors.

First Co-operative has received several thousand inquiries about its new account, which will be available from Monday, February 1. "We expect other financial institutions to follow our innovation by introducing similar services," said Mr Terry Thomas, Co-op Bank's joint general manager.

Customers will have a normal cheque book and cheque guarantee card and will be eligible for personal loans, budget accounts and deposit services in the usual way. "We want to encourage people who want to transfer all their business from another bank or building society to First Co-operative," Mr Thomas added.

## Grand Met sells £30m hotel chain

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sir Maxwell Joseph's Grand Metropolitan group is selling virtually all its regional hotels — among them the Elizabethan Falcon at Stratford-upon-Avon to the Queens Moat Houses chain for £30m.

The deal, subject to contract, is expected to be substantially in cash, with Grand Metropolitan getting a Queens Moat stake of around 7 per cent which it expects to hold as a growth stock.

The 26 provincial hotels in Grand Metropolitan's County Hotels division will more than double the size of the group, an expanding chain based at Romford, Essex whose chairman and joint managing director is Mr John Bairstow.

The sale makes no change to Grand Metropolitan's plans already announced to sell up to ten of its 19 London hotels. That decision followed the buying from Pan public houses.

Am of the Intercontinental chain, Grand Metropolitan is already negotiating with a number of potential buyers for some of its London properties.

Grand Metropolitan originally contemplated expansion of its provincial chain. The properties include the Viking, at York, Europa comparatively small number of hotels owned by Grand Metropolitan's brewing arm upon Tyne.

and the Bernal Inns were not involved and are not included in the sale.

But expansion of the county hotels chain, which includes three four-star hotels and 16 three-star properties, would have cost some £30m over three to four years, Mr John Travers, chief executive of the hotels division, said. "Queens Moat and County together make a more sensible unit than either separately," he added, pointing out that Queens Moat would not need to spend that amount of money because its existing chain gave the right degree of expansion.

Queens Moat has been buying new properties over the last few years and putting them under the Moat House banner. It currently has 24 hotels with a total of more than 1,500 bedrooms. It also has five restaurants and public houses.

The County Hotels chain amounts to 1,874 bedrooms, of which 1,702 have private baths. The geographical coverage ranges from Edinburgh to Southampton, with hotels in key provincial areas. The properties include the Viking, at York, Europa comparatively small number of hotels owned by Grand Metropolitan's brewing arm upon Tyne.



One of Massey-Ferguson's new range of tractors, the MF 250

## M-F offers leasing on new tractor models

By Bill Johnstone

Massey-Ferguson has launched a new range of tractors which is expected to increase the company's share of the world market from its present 16 per cent and maintain the group's Coventry plant as the biggest tractor manufacturing unit in the western world.

The anticipated success of the new range is, however, not expected to offset the redundancies the group may seek this year. Already the workforce at Coventry has been reduced over the last two years by 1,000 to 5,000.

Massey-Ferguson, like the other principal manufacturers of tractors in the world (Ford, John Deere, International Harvester, Fiat and David Brown), has been fighting to maintain a share in a contracting market.

The market in the United Kingdom in 1981 shrank by about 50 per cent in comparison to the mid-1970s, from about 40,000 units to 20,000. In North America the annual rate of retail sales in the industry dropped by 40 per cent in 1980 compared to that of 1979. In Europe the market dropped by over 30 per cent compared to what it had been in the mid-1970s.

The contraction in the market has been due to general recession, high interest rates and a trend in the western world for farmers to purchase fewer tractors but with greater horse power. The average tractor now sold in the United Kingdom is about 80 hp in comparison to 50 hp in the 1960s.

The company has plants in Italy, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico as well as associated companies in India, Libya, Morocco and Peru, with licensed operators in 14 other countries.

The company has also announced a new finance company, in conjunction with Barclays Bank, which will allow farmers to lease. It is expected to be operational from February 1.

According to Massey-Ferguson, over the past five years the demand for lease finance has grown considerably as more farmers have recognized the cost and tax advantages.

The competition for the tractor business, particularly in Third World countries, has intensified in recent years. Even in the United Kingdom the competition is considerable. Over 30 manufacturers are competing in Britain, offering a range of over 300 different units. Only five of these manufacturers in the United Kingdom on a large scale. They are: Massey-Ferguson, Ford, International Harvester, David Brown and Leyland, which has sold out to Marshall of Chelmsford.

The Third World countries have been hit by the increasing cost of energy which in turn has reduced their purchasing power for agricultural equipment. These overseas markets are crucial to the tractor manufacturers.

Out of a 1980 turnover of £556.9m, Massey-Ferguson exported £428.3m worth of equipment.

The company has plants in Italy, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico as well as associated companies in India, Libya, Morocco and Peru, with licensed operators in 14 other countries.

## £10m credit rescue line for ACC

By Philip Robinson and Paul Maudmont

Fears that some financial support for Associated Communications Corporation could be withdrawn this week has led Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Group to give Lord Grade's former empire £10m worth of standby credit.

Bankers have already refused to continue £3m worth of loans.

The credit line is part of Mr Holmes a Court's rescue package for the entertainment empire for which he is bidding £36m. His offer is being challenged by Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation which is offering £46m. ACC told shareholders last night to do nothing on the Heron bid.

Heron is trying to stop Mr Holmes a Court pulling off a quick victory by means of a High Court injunction blocking the transfer of ACC directors' voting shares to the Bell Group.

Judgment on this "unusually difficult case" will be given at 2 pm today.

## Lawson attacks reflation lobby

By Melvyn Westlake

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary and one of the most uncompromising hawks in the Cabinet, fought yesterday to rally resistance to the mounting pressure for a reflationary Budget in March. Less than 24 hours before the Cabinet was due to discuss Budget strategy, Mr Lawson poured scorn on the siren voices urging the Government to throw away all the hard-won gains by indulging in a big programme of reflation.

Although Mr Lawson did not refer specifically to his own Cabinet colleagues, there are several who are known to be increasingly anxious about the level of unemployment and keen to see Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, give some boost to the economy. The rise in the jobsless total to over three million has given a new force to their arguments.

Mr Lawson was, however, undaunted by the lengthening queue of the Government's fighting a war against inflation, he said, added: "In war, casualties are inevitable, they are neither intended, nor are they unexpected. They are a



Mr Nigel Lawson: rallying resistance to reflation.

sign neither of wickedness nor incompetence. The object is quite simply to win the war while minimising the casualties incurred."

The Energy Secretary made it clear that the Government would not be deterred by the mounting jobless toll. There should be no doubt, he said, that the Government intended to stick to its course. He was addressing the Association of Economic Representatives of London.

The content of the speech, which Mr Lawson wrote himself, appeared to be aimed at a wider audience. The Chancellor may have scope to give modest tax cuts, amounting to about £1,000m, in the Budget without pushing government borrowing above target. But this is less than many Tory "wets", including a handful in the Cabinet, would like.

In a stout defence of Government policy during the last three years, Mr Lawson blamed much of today's economic troubles on the Keynesian policies of earlier governments and fiercely attacked the Government's Keynesian critics.

He said he had predicted that the recession would intensify as a result of the £4,000m of tax increases the Chancellor had imposed in the last Budget, at its depth, Mr Lawson said he claimed at the time that the Budget was not contractionary and that some recovery would follow and events had vindicated his view.

If the Government's critics had been right, the modest recovery now taking place could never have occurred, he asserted.

## Kitchen furniture maker's dramatic decline in trading

## 640 jobs axed as Hygena shuts down

By Margaret Pagan

Hygena, the kitchen furniture maker which, in its 1960s heyday, claimed a 30 per cent share of the market, has stopped trading. It has been steadily losing money over the last five years.

The parent group, Morcross, says it can no longer afford to prop up the division, which last year lost over £1m, because of fierce competition and the squeeze on consumer spending.

Mr Alan Webb, the finance director, said trading has dropped off so dramatically over the last three months that Morcross no longer believes Hygena can return to profits. Only last June the group forecast improvements for a larger deficit.

Redundancy notices were yesterday served on the 640 employees at Kirkby, Merseyside, one of the country's highest areas of unemployment. Mr Webb said there were no plans to sell the business but they were not abandoning the Hygena trade mark.

At one time Hygena employed over 2,000 but, with



The Hygena image: dream kitchens hit hard times

mounting losses the workforce has been cut back over recent years. Last year another 300 jobs were axed and production concentrated on the one site at Kirkby.

Mr Webb explained that Hygena's order book had tumbled off to only a few days' work. "We have made every effort to make Hygena profitable but projections are that losses would continue to increase this year. This does

not justify the level of ongoing investment required to continue operations."

The group will not disclose the extent of losses over the last five years but they are substantial and Hygena is believed to have lost made money in 1973. At its peak the group had sales of £26m and was one of the first market leaders with self-assembly kitchen furniture at

the higher end of the market. With sales of kitchen furniture falling off generally, the group has had to contend with flat-pack kits, now estimated to take 80 per cent of the £500m market.

Imports from German and French competitors have also presented problems.

News of the closure, which the City regards as not soon enough, saw Morcross shares gain 3/4p to 105 1/2p. With estimates for Hygena's closure and redundancy costs of some £2.5m for the present year, the group's results have been downgraded to £23.5m.

## BELGIUM

The EEC commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty of 29.2 per cent on imports of oxalic acid from Czechoslovakia and China. The commission was acting on a complaint from the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations of dumping by China and three East bloc countries. However, the commission exempted Hungary and East Germany from its investigation.

## Raeburn Investment Trust plc

Year ended 30th November	1981	1980
Value of net assets	£60,027,953	£57,375,022
Gross revenue	£3,492,340	£3,323,450
Per 25p Stock unit:-		
Net asset value	224.6p	215.1p
Earnings	6.90p	6.94p
Dividend	6.90p	6.35p

The Chairman, Mr S.G. Brookbank, comments:

Franked income rose slightly, in spite of dividend cuts by several companies in the portfolio, while unfranked income rose from £737,000 to £963,000. Deposit interest received and interest paid combined to offset the improvement in investment income. The net result was that earnings per share declined from 6.94p to 6.90p. This also partly reflected a change of emphasis giving higher priority to capital growth. In these circumstances a full distribution of earnings is recommended.

The company's net asset value per share rose by 4.42% which compares with a rise in the All-Share Index of 2.66%. Results achieved in the USA and Japan were well above the local indices even before adjusting for currency movements.

Raeburn is retaining a reasonable margin of liquidity and this together with its undrawn loan facilities, provides considerable flexibility to take advantage of any favourable opportunities.

Raeburn's policy is to achieve above-average capital appreciation and satisfactory dividend growth.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, Leazard Brothers & Co. Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 3HT.







BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

More jobs for the girls?

Gina Connolly and Dorothy Venables have the job of getting more ladies appointed as non-executive directors. They are compiling a list of 100 women of "proven experience in a challenging field", which by the summer should be available to headhunters and the like.

Ms Connolly is a consultant with Hay Management Consultants and Mrs Venables is in personnel. They are working on the project on behalf of the Fawcett Society, the group named after the suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, which has been campaigning for equality since 1866.

Ms Connolly tells me: "The number of non-executive directors being appointed is increasing quite considerably, but because they are appointed from the ranks of executive directors or from the old-boy network,



Director action: Gina Connolly and Dorothy Venables

the net is not catching women."

The two women have about 30 names so far. If you think you have another, you contact Gina Connolly, c/o The Fawcett Society, Parnell House, 5th floor, 25 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LW.

Halbert's hand off the tiller

John Halbert, who in the early 1970s clinched a deal to supply the Mexicans with 31 patrol boats, is to go back on the road.

Halbert, 54, will stand down as chairman of ABTAM, the London-based



machine tools, ships and education equipment group, to set up deals in marine engineering.

He will become president of ABTAM, a non-executive director and an advisor to the parent company, Edward Williams Holdings. He will be succeeded as chairman by Edward Williams's chairman Brian Williams.

Halbert, former president of the Machine Tool Trades Association and adviser to British Shipbuilders on defence craft for export, says the market for patrol boats in fishery protection and coast-guard duties is holding up well.

Florida for beginners

Joseph Thompson, who is Southeast Bank's new man in London, has only had a few weeks here but already he has seen sun, railway strikes and a near-miss with the miners. It is all very different from life in sunny, scarcely-unionized Florida, where Southeast is the state's largest bank — but necessarily bad for business.

Thompson's priorities here is to find and to finance the acquisition of property in the Sunshine State for British investors. Life has been so hectic for Thompson since he left Miami, however, that he has yet to find a British property for himself. "I've got a hotel and a suitcase", he told me yesterday.

ROSS DAVIES

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sir Peter Murrell has been appointed vice chairman of M F North.

Mr Alan R. Brown, managing director and chief executive of Matthew Hall Mechanical Services, is, in addition, to become managing director and chief executive of Holliday Hall & Co. Mr Holliday is to become a non-executive director of Holliday Hall.

Lord Glendon of Midhope has been appointed to the board of Standard Telephones and Cables.

Mr Tim Hedgcock has been appointed managing director of International Thomson Business Press, the European division of International Thomson Business Press USA. Mr Hedgcock has relinquished the chairmanship of Computacut but remains on their board. He has also resigned from the board of Wigham Poland Holdings.

Mr Michel Dreux, who has completed 10 years as the Yorkshire Insurance Company's manager for France, has been appointed general manager for France.



Another 2 million jobs are needed by the mid-1980s, but companies have been holding back on investment.

German politicians give the jobs bandwagon another push

Peter Norman

Munich. The West German Government is committed to doing something about unemployment. But it is being forced into action that it does not really believe in and which it does not know how to finance.

The news earlier this month that unemployment had touched a 28-year-high of 1.7 million proved the catalyst that made some sort of government programme to deal with the problem inevitable. The figure had been forecast long in advance, just as it is assumed that by the end of this month the number on the dole will have risen to at least 1.9 million and that the dread figure of two million jobless will probably be reached in February.

But the pressure on the Government to act, stimulated by a six-month trade union campaign, built up as parliamentarians returned from their constituencies after Christmas and party strategists pointed to the four vitally important state elections due to take place this year.

Doubts may be harboured by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, Herr Hans Maizhofer, the Finance Minister, Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Free Democrat Economics Minister, and Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Federal Bank, but the bandwagon is rolling, pushed along by a highly competitive Bonn press corps that avidly picks up and regurgitates, without digesting, every hint and snippet of possible action emanating from the bureaucracies of the Government or the political parties.

All that can be said about the unemployment programme is that it is bound to disappoint in terms of size and is unlikely to have any significant short-term impact on Germany's jobless problem.

The call by Herr Heinz Oskar Vetter, head of the

German Trade Union Federation for a DM50,000m (£11,500m) public spending programme spread over five years is a non-starter — and Herr Vetter knows this just as well as Chancellor Schmidt. West Germany, having pumped well over DM100,000m into the economy in tax cuts and job-creating programmes since the onset of the recession in 1974, simply has no more cash to spare.

Gone are the days when domestic economic and monetary policy could be conducted with a measure of autonomy. Although the German balance of payments may be improving, German interest rates are still governed by developments on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Federal Government believes that it cannot increase its net borrowing requirement above the DM26,500m budgeted for this year without risking a run on the mark and an increase in interest rates that would produce a vicious circle of greater economic slowdown and increased inflation. The upward movement of long-term bond yields in Frankfurt earlier this month as speculation grew about the possibility of increased borrowing substantiates this claim.

Nobody in the Bonn finance or economics ministries denies that there are projects that could be usefully undertaken to absorb some of the unemployed, even though the 1982 budget and the medium-term financial plan up to 1985 will channel more than DM26,000m into job-creating projects. The building industry is in deep recession, particularly that part normally employed by the public sector in projects such as road or underground railway building. The unemployment problem is aggravated by local authorities and state governments curtailing their investment spending at the same time as the Federal Government.

For a short while Herr Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, appeared to be toying with the idea of a state premium towards new investments carried out in the first half of 1982 that exceeded the average of the last three years. No sooner was this pump-priming idea publicized than he retreated, because it would have to be financed through an increase in value added tax and political support was not forthcoming.

Hans Maizhofer, the Finance Minister, also has a pet project for raising taxes and financing new jobs. He would like to raise petrol and

mineral oil taxes, arguing that it is necessary to keep these prices rising to reduce Germany's dependence on imported energy. But such ideas have been received with horror by other politicians of both coalition parties in an election year.

Another fund-raising idea that has been roundly rejected at Cabinet level was put forward by Herr Vetter. The trade unions, with the support of Social Democrat left wingers, wanted a jobs programme to be financed by a tax on higher incomes, a suggestion rejected on the grounds that it would curb industry's already weak propensity to invest.

It appears that the only way to raise funds will be to re-jig spending inside the existing budget. But this is a time and nerve consuming process. On past experience it is unlikely to yield more than a few hundred millions for a "fig leaf" programme, which would perhaps try to push a little more public money in the direction of small to medium-sized industries, aid young businesses and perhaps pay for some environmental improvements. Such a programme would be bound to attract criticism for being a minimal response to the problem of record unemployment. But government officials argue that in many ways it would be the correct response.

The German economy is in a very different state than at the beginning of the world recession when the Government believed that it was sufficient to pump in money to boost demand in place of that siphoned off by higher oil prices. Although it is still the strongest economy in Western Europe, it is having to face up to major structural challenges arising from a high level of costs at home, increased competition in world markets, and a rapid growth in the labour force.

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Business Editor  
US policy still lacks conviction

Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker has certainly taken some of the pressure off international interest rates with his hint on Tuesday that a rise in the discount rate was not on his immediate agenda. But the fact remains that President Reagan's State of the Union message coupled with Volcker's evidence to the Congressional joint economic committee scarcely add up to a consistent joint front that will dispel market fears for the medium term.

To the President has indeed once again acknowledged the need to reduce the federal deficit in the years ahead. But he is not to raise taxes on consumers or cut back on defence expenditure while shuffling certain budgetary items from federal to state agencies is bound to be taken as largely cosmetic.

In other words, supply side economics still appear to be the mainstay of the work force to remain sceptical that the medium-term figures will ever add up to a declining deficit.

As for Mr Volcker, he seems to have been keeping open his views on the Administration's approach to its goals. His main concern was to point out that one way or another both the Administration and Congress had to ensure that the Federal deficit fell back as the economy started to recover if there was not in due course to be a nasty crunch in credit markets.

His secondary aim was to hit back against critics who labelled the Fed a high interest rate institution that was largely responsible for the present recession. It was markets, not the Fed that determined the price of money, he suggested.

One might argue that ad infinitum. But the pre-eminence of markets, particularly United States markets, as the finest arbiters of interest rates was also a theme of Mr Richard Fetherbridge, managing director of Union Discount, when presenting the group's annual figures (see page 16) yesterday.

He had his doubts that the Bank of England, or other European central banks for that matter, could lead interest rates down independently of what was happening in the American markets. His own house's view of interest rates at the moment was "very cautious".

Already some of the more progressive union leaders have suggested moving away from simple wage increases in the annual round of collective wage bargaining to seeking other benefits, such as greater worker participation in the productive assets of his or her company. Such a trend could get union leaders away from the annual confrontations over percentage wage increases that have resulted in higher costs and fewer jobs.

This spring's wage round should show whether the unions and industrial management are prepared to play their part in facing up to Germany's medium-term challenge.

If so, the politically induced job-creation programme that is keeping West Germany's politicians fully employed, will be a worthwhile bit of window dressing to bolster the trade unions' prestige and reassure the public that Herr Sch. really is a Machter — a man who gets things done.

The banking system had to learn this with the passing of the 1979 Banking Act, which for regulatory purposes cannot give preferential treatment to the clearers, however much they might have wanted it. The Lloyd's insurance market is also having to come to terms with fundamental reform as, in a lesser way, are insurance brokers. If the proposals to control licensed dealers (published this month) are put into effect, licensed share dealers will also have to concede that the world has changed.

A great deal of the success or failure of the Gower proposals will depend on the fine print, the precise powers of the new self-regulatory bodies he proposes and the relationship between these bodies and the statutory authorities.

The trouble is that Professor Gower has spelt out too clearly that he wants self-regulation in a rather wider statutory framework. City institutions, jealous of their independence, were unlikely to take kindly to that but it would be a pity if his generally constructive approach was discarded because of this.

Although the Government moved quickly in setting up its review of investor protection when a number of collapses threatened to black the name of investment management, this issue does not have high enough priority for the Government to give it special parliamentary attention so that any legislation is unlikely before next year at the earliest.

It will be much longer — and the possibility of tighter statutory controls that much greater — if the City deliberately stands in the way.

traditionally been held only at times of extreme crisis in British industry, for example to draw up a "survival plan" that will prevent a plant closure. If the NEDC can stimulate factory-wide discussion about industrial practice — not just industrial relations — it will have performed a service whose benefits will last long after the individual reports are forgotten.

A promising method is to send in an "ambassador" — a respected senior (usually retired) industrialist — to hold a company meeting at which all parts of the workforce are represented. That has been tried successfully by the food, drink and packaging machinery sector working party. All five of the meetings held so far have been the first in the firms' history to involve such a wide range of managers and employees in joint discussion of all aspects of the company's performance. And was the first "official" meeting ever held in the company!

Customers with a Cheque and Save account will be paid interest on their daily balance on the Co-op, currently at the rate of 10 per cent, though this will vary. But there will be a deduction of £1.50 a month as a flat service charge, irrespective of the number of cheques drawn.

The other high street banks maintain that Co-op must be running Cheque and Save as a loss leader, but Terry Thomas is adamant that First Co-operative Finance, the subsidiary through which the account is launched, expects to make profits from the new account.

Barclays and NatWest say they will be keeping close eye on the Co-op, though they have no immediate plans to follow suit. Midland is more specific saying it intends to launch a similar interest bearing current account, some time before the end of the year.

The surprise in yesterday's announcement from Co-op was the departure from the original plan of charging 18 to 20p for each cheque drawn. The flat service charge of £18 a year may well render the new account considerably less attractive than the Co-op's existing current accounts when interest paid on Cheque and Save declines.

If, for example, the notional interest rate paid declines to 7 per cent, customers will have to keep an average credit balance of £257 in their account to qualify for free banking. This is considerably less attractive than the free banking while an account is in credit available on Co-op Bank's ordinary current accounts. Winning customers from its competitors might prove harder than expected.

This sort of meeting has

Little Neddies  
Action time

Over the years the "Little Neddies" working under the National Economic Development Council — 51 economic development committees and sector working parties — have churned out scores of reports on the industries they cover. Many contained excellent specific recommendations, but few have actually been taken up within individual plants and factories.

So it is refreshing to see that this year's work programme, published by the NEDC today, gives top priority to implementing the committees' suggestions. The starting point for that must be not just to publish and distribute reports, but to stimulate meetings between management and workforce to discuss them.

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Eurotherm International Limited			
Industrial electronic control and monitoring equipment for world markets			
Preliminary Announcement			
The unaudited results of Eurotherm International Limited for the year ended 31st October 1981 are set out below:			
	Year ended 31st October 1981 £'000	1980 £'000	
Historical Cost Accounts			
Sales			
U.K.	11,468	10,900	
Overseas	16,128	13,934	
	27,596	24,834	
Profit before interest, exchange loss, taxation and minority interests	3,703	3,365	
Gain/(Loss) on translation of foreign assets and liabilities	105	(184)	
Profit before taxation, interest and minority interests	3,808	3,181	
Interest	(539)	(775)	
Profit before taxation and minority interests	3,269	2,406	
Taxation - U.K.	(697)	(305)	
- Overseas	(753)	(387)	
Profit before minority interests	1,819	1,714	
Minority interests	(68)	(20)	
Net Profit	1,751	1,694	
Dividend paid/proposed	(562)	(460)	
Profit retained	1,189	1,234	
Earnings per share	15.30p	14.84p	



Bristol City. Job Iading had three players together with him, trying to give a who joined the Palace in the exchange deal. Mabbitt, to the heads the list. Harford, joint goals, and the S. fuller.

Colchester United manager, John Hobson, said: "I haven't a clue who is going to be in the field on Saturday. I will see who is left."

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men from Congressmen Robert Kennedy at their quarters Tuesday for a special squad to investigate the shooting. The shooting at Madison Square Garden was the first of a series of attacks on them until they were recovered and released.

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## Football

## Three more players surplus to Bristol City's requirements

Bristol City, the third division club facing bankruptcy, have put three players on the transfer list today. The club, which is trying to give away Terry Boyle, who joined them from Crystal Palace in the summer in an exchange deal which took Kristian Mabbett to the London club, heads the list. The others are Ian Hart, who scored 10 goals, and the Swedish goalkeeper Moller.

City's acting manager Roy Hodgson said the club, which has not had a win since Saturday, will have to wait and see who is left.

Colchester United, of the fourth division, face a financial crisis after losing a battle with the local council. The club, which is pocketing £1,600 a week and with an overdraft of over £70,000, appealed to the council to lift a restrictive covenant which allows Colchester to use the ground to enable them to go ahead with a £500,000 improvement plan.

The council, who last year rejected plans for a new all-seater stadium in a £15m shopping complex, rejected the club's appeal. The club have not received a £30,000 loan from 1974. Maurice Cadman, the club chairman, said that unless the covenant was lifted to allow commercial activities, Colchester's future could be in serious jeopardy.

Wrexham made another appeal to the Football Association yesterday to change their decision that clubs playing at home to Chelsea in full-time matches (as stipulated by the FA) should not be allowed to use the ground to enable them to go ahead with the games.

Norman Wilson, Wrexham's general secretary, said: "Despite the fact that the Chelsea fans have been inside the ground that locked out and left to roam the town."

"From what I saw of them, these Chelsea followers were really kind, considerate and decent people. But I estimate we would have had up to 5,000 more spectators in the ground from this area had been allowed to turn up on the night and pay at the gate. This means that football has lost £200 at a time when it needs every penny."

Originally, to give themselves a cruel blow for Celtic.

Dave Provan, Celtic's Scottish International winger, joined the club's growing casualty list yesterday when he underwent a cartilage operation. This came hard on the heels of a broken leg suffered by Scotland under-21 striker Charlie Nicholas and manager Billy McNeill's failure to sign Sandy Clark from Airdrie for £200,000.

Provan, aged 25, has been in and out of Celtic's main squad for a recurring knee problem this season and the operation will rule him out of Scotland's international against Spain in Valencia.

The Celtic manager said: "With a heavy spell of matches ahead it is a cruel blow to lose first Nicholas and now Provan. It's anyone's guess whether he will be back, but meanwhile I've got to look towards strengthening the squad for the coming future and long term. I won't be making any stop-gap signings."

South's midfield player Terry Coyne, valued at £50,000, has asked for a transfer.

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South's manager, a Brentford supporter, won his race to get the Tottenham striker, Gordon Strachan, cleared in time for last night's third division match at Reading. Legassic, who works at London Airport, was taken to collect Strachan's international clearance from a cargo plane when it landed on Tottenham.

South's City's manager John Toshack has been fined £200 by the Welsh FA for using foul and abusive language in the North Wales derby at half time during a Southern Junior Floodlit Cup second round game.

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## United rely on the mobility of Stapleton

By Leslie Duxbury  
Manchester United went to the top of the first division by beating West Ham United at Old Trafford last night. Manager Alex Ferguson's side, who were the winners after 72 minutes.

United were plainly desperate to climb to the top of the League table. The only remaining fixture in the first division, which is the only one left for the city of Manchester, was West Ham, on the other side of the city.

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## Rugby Union

## France takes to the guillotine to spoil Welsh record in Cardiff

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

When the French selectors use the guillotine they rarely take half-measures. For the Welsh International in Cardiff on Saturday night they have despatched all but one of the back division which played against New Zealand in November, and brought the number of changes to eight by retaining a fit Jean-Luc Jaurès (as captain again) and Pierre Lescarbour (as loose forward). The No. 6, Jean-Luc Jaurès, is injured.

Other changes were made to the back division. The only survivor behind the scrum, where six of the players had been, was the regular member of the back division, Jean-Luc Jaurès (as captain again) and Pierre Lescarbour (as loose forward). The No. 6, Jean-Luc Jaurès, is injured.

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Grand Slams champions, though their status has been somewhat tarnished by two defeats in Australia and then two more at the hands of Graham Mourie's All Blacks.

But they will be encouraged by what happened to Wales in Dublin last weekend and to judge from Fournier's enthusiasm for his new back division, one may expect the added influence of Rives to ensure that France expect themselves with the old role de vain.

Both Scotland and England have decided not to award caps in their internationals against the touring Fijians next autumn. The Fijians will play 10 matches on their split tour.

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## Scotland call Tukalo for France

Iwan Tukalo, whose father is Ukrainian and mother Italian, makes his international rugby debut for Scotland in the 5 International against France at Lyons on February 7.

Tukalo, aged 20, born, bred and schooled in Edinburgh, and who regards himself as a fully fledged Scot, has scored five tries for his club, Royal High, this season.

He admits to having two ambitions: to see Royal High, propped second in division two of the Scottish National League, both Scotland and to play for Scotland. With his club currently lying second in division two of the Scottish National League, both Scotland and to play for Scotland.

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## Tennis

## Stricter code is promised after McEnroe verdict

John McEnroe will not escape so easily if he is punished for bad behaviour at Wimbledon, again this summer.

A three-man tribunal, which heard McEnroe's appeal in New York, decided by a majority verdict that the fine should stand. But under last year's disciplinary code of conduct the appeal was successful because a unanimous verdict was required.

Fred Hoyle, the Wimbledon referee who was involved in McEnroe's arguments during last year's championship, is concerned about the decision. "Can justice really be seen to be done when the voters are on the opposite side?" he asked.

McEnroe, however, will find that the players' code of conduct has been tightened up. "If he puts himself in a similar position after this year's Wimbledon championships," said David Gray, Secretary of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, which governs











# Director of Finance

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<p><b>9.05 For Schools.</b> Today's subjects are: Living in a Developing Country; It's Your Choice; It's Maths; Science Workshop; Scene; Near and Far; Search (down the river Telly); and On the Rocks (the United Kingdom). 12.20 Interval. 12.30 News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Live from the studio's foyer. 1.45 King Rollo (breakfast in bed). 1.50 Stop-Gol (all about wheels). 2.00 You and Me (it is for friends). 2.15 For Schools and Colleges: Music Time and Television Club. 3.00 Close-down. 3.15 Holiday: Cruising along the Nile — 1982-style; also, an off-season deal in Dover; and the pleasures of York and Scarborough. 3.55 Play School: see BBC at 11.00 am for details.</p> <p><b>4.20 Secret Squid:</b> cartoon. 4.45 Jackanory. Jan Francis reads John Galsworthy's <i>Bravo Balzac</i>.</p> <p><b>4.40 Huckleberry Finn and his Friends:</b> Episode 4 of the Mark Twain story. Tom's "engagement" to Becky is over.</p> <p><b>5.05 John Craven's Newsround:</b> 5.10 Blue Peter: A cheap way for model railway enthusiasts to make a forest of trees for their OO gauge set.</p> <p><b>5.40 News:</b> with Richard Baker. And weather.</p> <p><b>6.00 South East at Six:</b> And, at 6.25, Nationwide.</p> <p><b>7.00 Tomorrow's World:</b> Special radar systems to spot natural disasters; and a device which monitors how much electricity appliances are using.</p> <p><b>7.25 Top of the Pops:</b> with Simon Bates.</p> <p><b>8.05 Wildlife on Six:</b> Baboons Rule O.K. The result of the one month spent by cameraman Rodney Bortland and his wife Moira among the Chacma baboons in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.</p> <p><b>8.30 Goodbye Mr Kent:</b> New comedy series begins. With Richard Briers as the journalist lodging with Hannah Gordon.</p> <p><b>9.00 News:</b> With John Simpson. And weather forecast.</p> <p><b>9.25 Shoeshirts:</b> The radio station private eye (Trevor Eve) is on the trail of a missing 1960s pop star after a record saying he has been recovered from a dead girl. There's also a mysterious cover-up attempt in the music business. With Michael Craig, Anne Bell and Lance Percival (r).</p> <p><b>10.20 Question Time:</b> Another question-and-answer session, with Robin Day in the chair. His panel tonight consists of Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman on the environment; Geoffrey Rippon, former Conservative cabinet minister; Barbara Swain, an official with the white-collar section of the AUEW; and Julie Tallon, who runs her own export business.</p> <p><b>11.20 Top Selling:</b> The spotlight tonight is on the big boats. Bob Fisher follows the first four-day Sea Horse Maxi regatta which was staged last year. Many of the owners were getting their craft in trim for the round-the-world Whitbread race.</p> <p><b>11.50 News headlines.</b> And weather forecast.</p>	<p><b>11.00 Play School:</b> The story of the Little Red Hen. With Ben Thomas and Lola Young. 11.25 Close-down. 12.00 News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Live from the studio's foyer. 1.45 King Rollo (breakfast in bed). 1.50 Stop-Gol (all about wheels). 2.00 You and Me (it is for friends). 2.15 For Schools and Colleges: Music Time and Television Club. 3.00 Close-down. 3.15 Holiday: Cruising along the Nile — 1982-style; also, an off-season deal in Dover; and the pleasures of York and Scarborough. 3.55 Play School: see BBC at 11.00 am for details.</p> <p><b>4.50 They're Playing My Tune:</b> How Joe Williams, from Birmingham, was caught in the (musical) act (r).</p> <p><b>5.00 World Skiing Championships:</b> From Haus, in Austria. We see the Ladies' Combined Downhill.</p> <p><b>5.40 All Creatures Great and Small:</b> Another tale of the Yorkshire vets. What happens when they all want to be free on the same night (r).</p> <p><b>6.35 Ennals' Point:</b> Welsh lifeboat drama serial: episode 4. A young seaman attempts suicide. 7.20 News.</p> <p><b>7.25 History on Your Doorstep:</b> Author Terry James tells Fred Housego about Carmarthen's past.</p> <p><b>7.50 International Snooker:</b> Benson and Hedges Masters.</p> <p><b>8.30 Russell Harty:</b> Guests are Dennis Roussos and wild animal tamer Martin Lacey.</p> <p><b>9.00 Call My Bluff:</b> Return of the game in which it's the best poker-faces that win. Frank Muir, Joanna Lumley and Tim Rice are pitted against Arthur Marshall, Sue Cook and Peter Davison.</p> <p><b>9.30 Forty Minutes:</b> The Last Resort. For the first time, the TV cameras have been allowed into Glenelgh, the prison in the Birmingham suburbs where disruptive and disturbed youngsters who have committed very serious crimes (rape, arson, murder among them) are kept. We see the three grades of rehabilitation.</p> <p><b>10.10 International Snooker:</b> More coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters, from Wembley Conference Centre.</p> <p><b>10.45 Newsnight:</b> news and comment. Peter Shore explains Labour's policy, and Shirley Williams and Terence Higgins examine it.</p> <p><b>11.30 The Old Grey Whistle Test:</b> Rockpop in Concert. We see Foreigner and The Spill Radio Show, filmed in the Westfalenhallen, Dortmund, West Germany on January 9. Ends at 12.15 am.</p>	<p><b>9.30 For Schools.</b> The subjects today are: Physics in Action; My World: Seeing and Doing the Normans; Geography: A-level Biology; Basic Mathematics; Over to You (the uses of thread); and Middle English; 12.10 Little Blue: the baby elephant; 12.10 Get up and Go! with Baby Reid; 12.30 The Sultans: Australian family serial, set in the last war. 1.00 News from ITN; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Post: Four couples talk about their experience of retirement; 2.45 Love Among the Artists: Shaw's novel, serialized, with John Stride, Clive Brook, Geraldine James as Mary Sutherland; 3.45 How's Your Father? Comedy series with Harry Worth (r).</p> <p><b>4.15 Dangerous:</b> cartoon serial, episode four; 4.20 Little House on the Prairie: A difficult decision for the newly-adopted son.</p> <p><b>5.15 Emmerdale Farm:</b> countryside serial.</p> <p><b>5.45 News from ITN:</b> 6.00 Thames area news.</p> <p><b>6.30 Thames Sport:</b> The local scene is covered by Derek Thompson, Allan Taylor and Simon Reed.</p> <p><b>7.00 Does the Team Think?</b> Questions are (colloquially) answered by Beryl Reid, Jimmy Edwards, Fred Howard and William Rushton. Order is sporadically maintained by Tim Brooke-Taylor. This is the television version of the old BBC radio show. Mr Edwards was in that, too.</p> <p><b>7.30 Film: March or Die (1977).</b> French Foreign Legion drama, set just after the First World War, with Gene Hackman as the officer assigned to a group making an archaeological dig. The local Arabs are not friendly. Co-starring Terence Hill, Catherine Deneuve, Ian Holm and Max Von Sydow.</p> <p><b>9.00 Film: March or Die (continued).</b></p> <p><b>9.30 TV Eye:</b> For 12 months, a 29-year-old British engineer has been held hostage in a remote mountain stronghold in northern Iraq by Kurdish insurgents. TV Eye has film of the captive, Michael Powell; and there are interviews with his mother and brother who have been waging a vain battle to secure his release. The reporter is Peter Gill.</p> <p><b>10.00 News from ITN.</b> And Thames area news headlines.</p> <p><b>10.30 Danger UXB:</b> Just Like a Woman. Serial about Army bomb disposal man in wartime London. Starring Anthony Andrews, last seen as Sebastian Flyte in <i>Brideshead Revisited</i>. This episode shows a bomb found in the vegetable patch of a couple called the Prestons (Alfie Bass and Patsy Smart) (r).</p> <p><b>11.30 WKRP in Cincinnati:</b> American radio station comedy series. A mistake over a competition prize—and an attempt to repair the damage.</p> <p><b>12.00 What the Papers Say:</b> The presenter is Peter Peterson.</p> <p><b>12.15 Close:</b> with Gillian Reynolds.</p>	<p><b>6.00 News Briefing.</b> 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 6.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Checkpoint. 9.20 The Living World. 10.00 News. 10.02 Your Move or Mine. The sporting business of buying and selling houses. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story: "Throwing the Punch" by Tony Curtis. 11.00 News. 11.05 File on 4. 11.50 Enquire Within. 12.00 News. 12.05 You and Yours. 12.27 Never Too Late: Thora Hird. Avice Burroughs. Mega Jenkins to "Hilda Stands Alone". 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Play "Pickers and Stealers" by Margaret Forster. 4.00 Home Base. 4.15 Bookshop. 4.45 Story Time: "Martial Rites" by Margaret Forster (r). 5.00 PM. 5.05 Weather. 5.08 News and Financial Report. 6.30 Any Answers? 6.40 It's a Bargain. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Time for Verse. 7.30 News. 8.00 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Concert: Dvorak. 8.55 Story Time. Henry Donald tells the story of "Rab and his Friends" by John Brown. 9.15 Concert (Part 2) Dvorak. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.05 Concert: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (r). 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 News. 12.00 News and Weather. VHF: 6.25am Forecast.</p>	<p><b>6.55 Weather.</b> 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. Suppe, Schubert, Walton; records. 7.06 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued). 8.06 News. 9.00 News. 9.05 Week's Composer. Bruch; records, including mono. 10.00 Twentieth-Century Piano Music. Recital: Bartok, Prokofiev, Ravel, Fokas Stravinsky (r).</p>	<p><b>5.00 Steve Jones:</b> 7.30 Terry Wogan: 10.00 Jimmy Young: 12.00 Gloria Swanson. 1.30 News. 1.35 The World at One. 1.40 News. 1.45 The World at Two. 1.50 News. 1.55 The World at Three. 2.00 News. 2.05 The World at Four. 2.10 News. 2.15 The World at Five. 2.20 News. 2.25 The World at Six. 2.30 News. 2.35 The World at Seven. 2.40 News. 2.45 The World at Eight. 2.50 News. 2.55 The World at Nine. 3.00 News. 3.05 The World at Ten. 3.10 News. 3.15 The World at Eleven. 3.20 News. 3.25 The World at Twelve. 3.30 News. 3.35 The World at One. 3.40 News. 3.45 The World at Two. 3.50 News. 3.55 The World at Three. 4.00 News. 4.05 The World at Four. 4.10 News. 4.15 The World at Five. 4.20 News. 4.25 The World at Six. 4.30 News. 4.35 The World at Seven. 4.40 News. 4.45 The World at Eight. 4.50 News. 4.55 The World at Nine. 5.00 News. 5.05 The World at Ten. 5.10 News. 5.15 The World at Eleven. 5.20 News. 5.25 The World at Twelve. 5.30 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# Plans abandoned for compulsory health insurance

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government has abandoned any idea of introducing a compulsory health insurance scheme to increase the resources available to the National Health Service. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for the Social Services, after examining a report on possible ways of financing health care, has decided to go no further with a reform which would have entailed a major administrative upheaval and encountered the hostility of the Labour Party.

The decision means that the NHS will continue to be mainly financed from general taxation. At present the proportion of its costs met from taxation is about 90 per cent.

The Conservative Party has for several years been actively interested in new ways of raising resources for health care. In 1976, Mr Patrick Jenkins, the party's spokesman in opposition, suggested that there might be a link between the inadequacies of the NHS, with Britain the only advanced country where patients "had to face the torments of the waiting list", and the fact that it was a highly centralized system, financed largely through taxation, which was free at the point of service.

The Conservative Party manifesto for the general election in 1979 referred to possible greater reliance on the insurance principle for NHS funding, as used by many Continental countries. Generally, the citizen is obliged to join a recognized health

insurance scheme, paying premiums in return for certain minimum benefits. But the Royal Commission on the Health Service, which reported in 1979, opposed such a system. The commission said it would not itself lead to more resources being devoted to the health service; and that administrative costs could be high, with more forms to fill in and more people to handle them.

More damningly, the commission said that an insurance system would introduce a new principle: that a different standard of health care within the NHS would be available to those who chose to pay for it.

This argument has all along been conclusive for the Labour Party, who would not countenance any change which required people to pay for treatment as a matter of course, even if the payments were reimbursed from the state funds. A mistaken report that the Government was contemplating such a change provoked angry charges in the Commons last month when Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Wile, Central, told the Prime Minister that any threat to the basic principles of the health service would create a revolutionary situation.

Since his appointment last September Mr Fowler has shown himself wary of making a change which might encounter grave political difficulties, at a time when the government has enough of those, for questionable financial advantage. Most of his colleagues share his judgment.

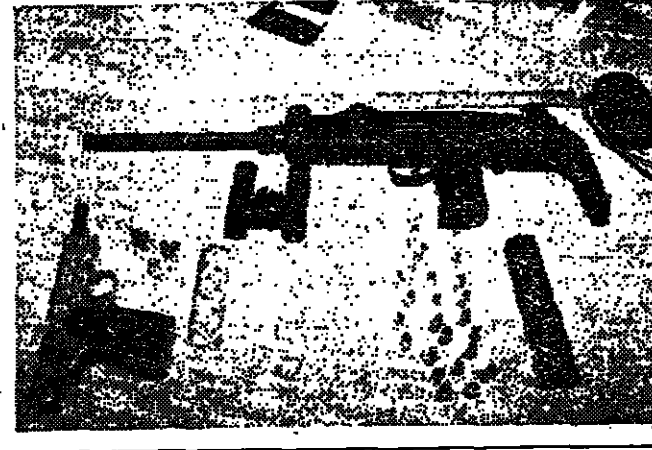


Arthur, above centre, escorted by police, and below, the arms said to be in his possession.

## Weapons seized with Briton in New York

Scotland Yard last night denied any knowledge of a Briton arrested by New York police who carried him "some kind of mercenary". Paul Arthur, aged 27, who gave his address as Sandstead Road, Croydon, south London, was arrested after a car chase. Found in the car were a Uzi sub-machine gun, a Colt 45, 24 armour-piercing bullets, a full clip of ammunition and a pair of binoculars.

police said. He was charged in court with possessing loaded weapons. Brooklyn police said: "He is not staying anything. He is one very cool customer." Last night's neighbours in Croydon described Mr Arthur as a bodyguard and former heavyweight boxer, who specialized in security operations on transfers of jewelry and money. He was known for long trips abroad and last seen in November.



## Architects back down over fees

By Hugh Clayton

Leaders of the architectural profession surrendered yesterday to government pressure for changes in rules for fixing fees. The Royal Institute of British Architects published new draft rules which will allow limited price-cutting and abolish the present system, which obliges members always to charge according to the institute's fixed scale of prices.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, said the proposed changes would enable the Government to drop its threat to enforce reform by law. Mr Patrick Harrison, Secretary of the institute, said: "Insofar as fees are subject to negotiation, it is likely that

it will reduce the income of the profession." Mr Owen Luder, president of the institute, said that the institute would not have gone so far if there had been no threat of legal enforcement. Our members have to face the political realities."

It is almost fourteen years since the former Prices and Incomes Board made the first in the present series of official complaints about the way architects' institutes oblige their members to charge a single scale of prices for each type of work.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission made similar criticisms in 1977 after hearing of

resentment against the rigid fee system, which ruled out any element of bargaining about prices when architects were chosen. The institute agreed to move from mandatory to recommended price scales, but decided to campaign against price competition.

It tried last year to win the tacit support of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for its case that price competition among architects would lead to a deterioration in service, which might leave the country with a modern heritage of sub-standard buildings.

Mrs Oppenheim has accepted that competition should be

limited. A proposed new institute rule, approved by her, says that "a member who is offering services as an independent consulting architect shall not revise a fee quotation to take account of the fee quoted by another architect for the same service."

Mr Harrison said that architects who broke the rule and tried to undercut excessively would receive "short shrift" from the institute. Mr Luder said: "Enforcement is always difficult, but this will not be so difficult, because if this thing is not done fairly then someone who is involved and gets the wrong end of the stick will yell."

## Secrets breach inquiry into dead PC's report

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Thames Valley police are investigating a possible breach of the Official Secrets Act concerning a confidential police report. The policeman who wrote the report, Det Sgt Philip Fairweather, aged 53, committed suicide in retirement last December, after the inquiry began.

On Tuesday Mr Stephen Scott, a producer with London Weekend Television, was arrested by two Thames Valley officers under the Official Secrets Act and questioned about the report among journalists.

an interview with Mr Fairweather. He was released without charge.

A spokesman for the television company said Mr Scott was questioned about his journalistic researches for a programme which was never transmitted for legal reasons.

Some of the research was used later for an article in the New Statesman magazine in the summer of 1979, written by Mr Scott. Police are concerned about the possible circulation of the report among journalists.

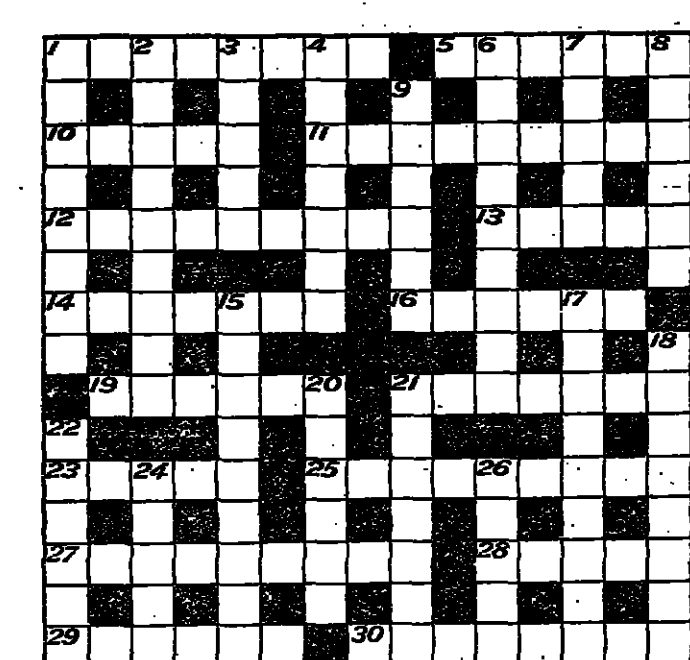
## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince of Wales, Patron, Transglobe Expedition, attends reception to mark final stage of the expedition. The Observer, 8 St Andrew's Hill, EC4, 6.  
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, visits St Paul's Church of England School, Cambridge, and opens new buildings, 3.  
**Exhibitions**  
The British Worker: photographs of working life, 1839-1939.

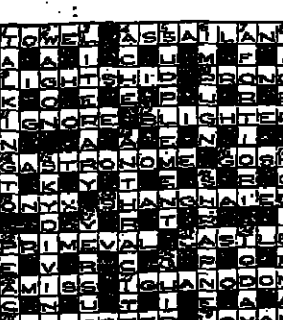
**Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery**, 9 to 5.  
Paintings by Jack Smith, Michael Johnson, Sue Smith and Helen Bates. Bridge Street, Carlisle, 7a Bridge Street, Bath, 12.30 to 5.30.  
17th to 19th century Japanese art, Adeane Gallery, Twickenham Museum, Cambridge, 10 to 4.30.  
Prints and watercolours by Michael Callimore, Anthony Davies and John Macfarlane, St Paul's Gallery, St Paul's Street, Leeds, 10 to 5.  
**Talks, lectures**  
The Appalachian Trail, illustrated lecture by John Merrill, Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, 7.30.  
**Music**  
Concert, Lunula Ensemble, Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton University, 8.  
Violin recital by Anne Hooley, St Mary-le-Bow, Chancery Lane, EC4, 8.15.  
Photographs by Freddie Reed, 9 to 5.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,741



- ACROSS**
- Judicial type of instrument (8)
  - Kate died knowing this (6)
  - Study hard, consuming energy, that's the best (5)
  - Clergyman's stipend dishonest, we hear? (9)
  - The lion or unicorn as a football fan (9)
  - Ways out from the stage (5)
  - Article may be quite odd (7)
  - Ghost seen to perform in small wood (6)
  - Show displeasure in bar - the monkey! (5)
  - Hence wife would share cost (2,5)
  - Manoeuvre near a battlefield (5)
  - Small little quarrel with action man (9)
  - So frightened by Medusa (3)
  - Aggregate at base of column (5)
  - Transgress and get a commission (6)
  - Checks extent of steps taken (8)
- DOWN**
- Exotic transport puts strain on author (8)
  - Pascal concerned with the length of this "needlo-woman's" nose (9)
  - Lover makes rings sound met? Right first time (5)
  - Letter gives record on Agave fibre (7)
  - Volunteers like sentry at Buckingham Palace? (4,5)
  - Set up hints of court before starting (5)
  - "Men love in haste, but they love in leisure" (Byron) (6)
  - Makes one's mark with orchestral works (6)
  - Estimate of literary value? (9)
  - Shopkeeper leaving health farm? (9)
  - Dance steps disturbing for clubs etc (9)
  - Dose with family paper perhaps at table (6)
  - Graduate thrown by one of high rank (7)
  - Bird in expertly shot (6)
  - Record a stage direction (5)
  - Money possibly in 9 (5)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,740



### Travel: Rail, road, sea, air

**Rail**  
No trains today: no overnight trains tonight. No very early trains tomorrow, and delays and cancellations likely, especially in the morning. For times of first trains call station inquiries, or pre-recorded message on 01-246 8030.

**Emergency parking**  
Emergency car parks for private vehicles open all week while rail disruption continues. Central London: Park Regent's Park, St James's Park, Victoria Park, Hackney, Dulwich Park, Peckham Rye, Finsbury Park, and Victoria Park, London. For NCP space availability, call 01-499 7050.

**Accommodation**  
The London Tourist Board has made special arrangements to help visitors to book hotels in the city: call 01-730 3450 before 5.30 tonight for bookings over a range of hotels or book direct with the board. For National Tourist Information Centre, Victoria Station, from 9 am to 8.30 pm.

**Air**  
SAS flights resumed to and from Copenhagen, but services not expected to be back to normal until tomorrow. Pre-recorded air travel information on 01-246 8032.

**Airport buses**  
Regular services to and from Gatwick (Flightline 777 from Heathrow) and Luton (British Airways 380 from Heathrow) hourly, and every 20 minutes during rush hours, take about 70 mins; Luton (British Airways 380 from Heathrow) hourly, take about 40 mins; Gatwick (British Airways 380 from Heathrow) hourly, take about 40 mins.

**The Pound**

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	31.90	31.90
Austria Sch	35.25	35.25
Belgium Fr	13.44	13.44
Denmark Kr	11.45	11.45
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	12.00	12.00
Italy Lira	136.00	136.00
Hong Kong \$	11.30	11.30
Japan Yen	160.00	160.00
Netherlands Gld	4.94	4.94
South Africa Rand	2.04	2.04
Spain Ptas	166.00	166.00
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.95
Switzerland Fr	3.41	3.41
USA \$	1.92	1.92

For small denomination bank notes, call 01-246 8032.

**The papers**  
The Daily Mirror says "If Mrs Thatcher is to make the U-turn that will rescue the economy, she will have to start twisting the steering wheel this morning." The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, commenting on Britain's economic policy, says lack of success has made the Government unsure of itself. "Its steps are marked by uncertainty which the Government calls flexibility." The Daily News of New York says Reagan's "new federalism" will work the greatest revolution in American government since the New Deal - if he can bring it off. "It will require the active cooperation of states and cities, or it won't fly."

### Weather

Frontal troughs over the NW will move SE. 6 am to midnight.

**London, SE England, E Anglia:** Mainly dry, sunny intervals, becoming cloudy with rain; wind S, fresh, increasing to strong; max temp 5 to 7C (39 to 45F).  
**Central S, Central W, E Anglia, Midlands:** Cloudy, mainly dry, with rain; max temp 5 to 7C (39 to 45F).  
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**Sea**  
Because of Seabank dispute, no Newcastle/Dieppe ferries operating. For special coaches to ports during rail disruption, call 01-246 8032. Disruption to Gurnsey services: ferries calling at Gurnsey on return sailings from Jersey, but not outward sailings from Weymouth or Portsmouth. Call 01-246 8032. Pre-recorded sea travel information on 01-246 8032.

**Anniversaries today**  
Births: Henry VIII, Pembroke Castle, 1457; John Baskerville, printer and scholar, Worcester, 1706; Henry Morton, Denbigh, 1841; Charles George Gordon, general, Woolwich, 1833; Douglas MacArthur, 1899; John F. Kennedy, 1917; Henry VIII, London, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, off Porto Bello, Panama, 1596; William Butler Yeats, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France, 1939.

**Postal delays**  
Because of the rail strike, mail may be slightly delayed.

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on failure of Government's economic policy.  
Lords (3): Social Security (Contributions) Bill, Committee.

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